水野英多

ついにスパイラルシリーズも
ラストになってしまいました…。
応援してくださった
全ての人に感謝です…!!

SPIRAL ALIVE

05

スパイラル・アライヴ

əláivl

作 城平 京
画 水野英多

GANGAN COMICS

GC スパイラル・アライヴ 5

作：城平 京
画：水野英多

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SQUARE ENIX.

SPIRAL ALIVE

05

GC ガンガンコミックス

SPIRAL ALIVE

GC スパイラル・アライヴ 5

作：城平 京
画：水野英多

SQUARE ENIX

SPIRAL ALIVE

★この作品はフィクションです。実在の人物・団体・事件などには、いっさい関係ありません。

スパイラル・アライヴ
〈5〉
作：城平京
画：水野英多
[əláiv]

HAVE YOU EVER FOUGHT A BATTLE WITH NO CHANCE OF WINNING?

EVEN THOUGH YOU ALREADY KNOW THAT IT IS A LOST BATTLE,

AND THAT IT IS AN *UNREASONABLE PUSH*, DO YOU CONTINUE TO FIGHT?

THIS IS SUCH A *STORY*.

A *STORY* ABOUT *PEOPLE FIGHTING* FOR *TOMORROW*.

EVEN THOUGH THEY KNOW

THERE IS NEITHER *HOPE* NOR *VICTORY*——

スパイラル・アライヴ

スパイラル・アライヴ [əláiv] 5

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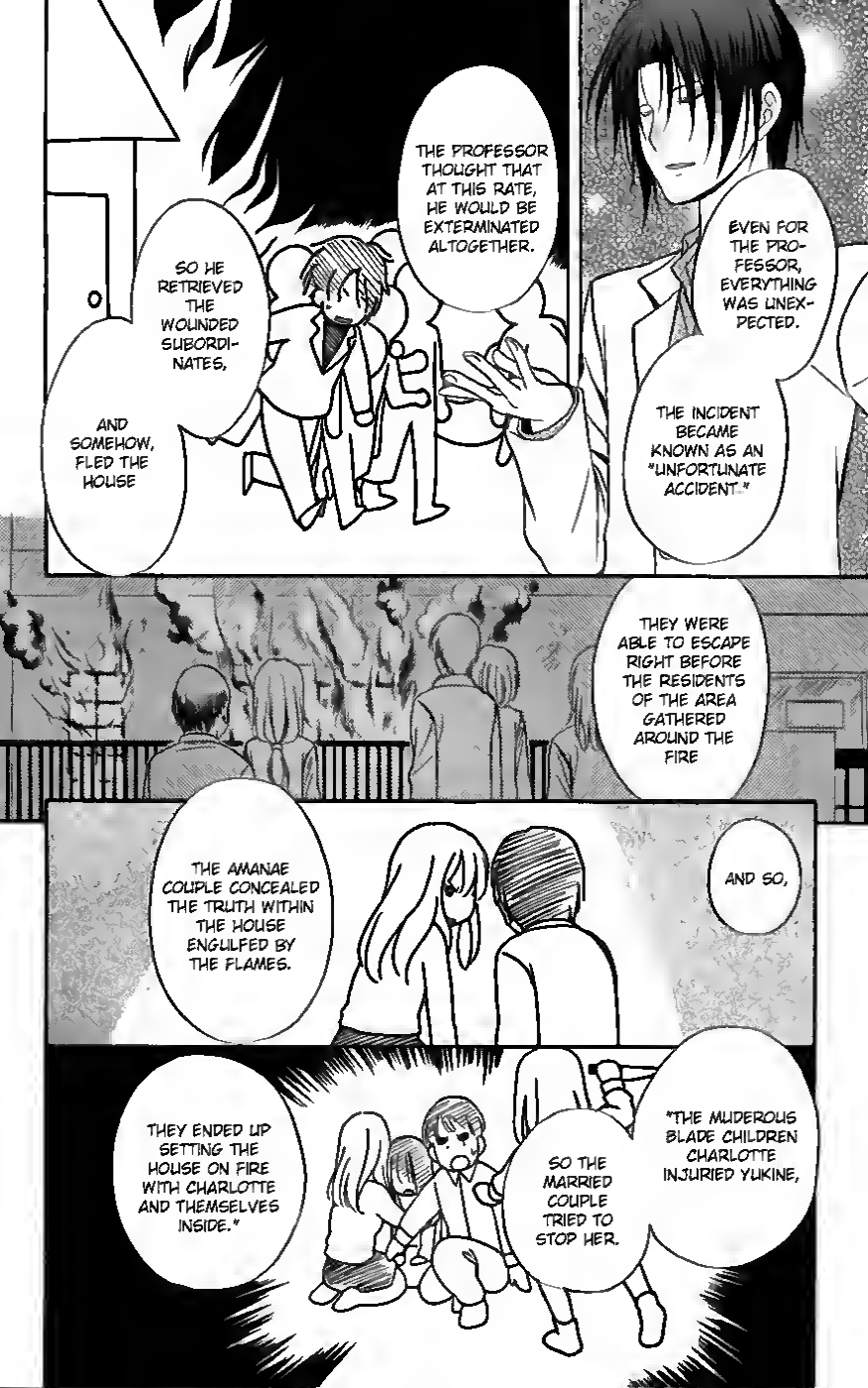
CHAPTER 22
THE COMPOSITION CHANGES ONCE AGAIN, THE TRUTH MANIFESTS

BAM
Costumes.
OK!
Bombs.
OK!
THUD
With this, even against a thousand enemies,
There's no way we'd lose!
Here we go!
To the battlefield!
CRAP
UMM...

I'M GLAD YOU TWO SEEM TO BE HAVING FUN BUT...
ABOUT NINE YEARS AGO,
COULD YOU TELL ME WHAT REALLY HAPPENED AT THE AMANAE'S RESIDENCE?
EVEN THOUGH YOU SAID "WE'RE GOING TO RETRIEVE THE MIKANAGI FILE, SO WE'LL LEAVE THE DRIVING TO YOU," I CAN'T JUST AGREE TO THAT.
FUU...
I SUPPOSE SO.
rustle
THE TRUTH GOES LIKE THIS:
NINE YEARS AGO,
PROFESSOR SHEFFIELD TOOK EIGHT SUBORDINATES
LINES UP
ZORO ZORO
AND VISITED THE AMANAE RESIDENCE IN HOPES OF NEGOTIATING THE EXTRADIATION OF THE FILE.

BANG
BANG!...
AND BEFORE THEY COULD HAVE A CONCRETE DISCUSSION, THE COUPLE DID A COUNTERATTACK.
THE CONFRONTED AMANAE COUPLE SENSED THE HOSTILITY
IF THE PROFESSOR WAS IN A SITUATION WHERE THEY WOULDN'T HAND OVER THE FILE,
HE FELT HE HAD TO STEAL IT BY FORCE.
castle
AS A RESULT, TWO OF THE PROFESSOR'S SUBORDINATES SUDDENLY RECEIVED A FATAL WOUND.
THE REST SEEMED TO SUFFER FROM MINOR INJURIES.
AND BECAUSE THE AMANAE COUPLE DIDN'T ANTICIPATE THE PROFESSOR'S VISIT,
Dammit...
THE TWO DAUGHTERS,
YUKINE AND CHARLOTTE, COULDN'T ESCAPE FROM THE HOUSE.
EVEN THOUGH THEY HAD MORE PEOPLE, THEY WERE INSTANTLY AT A DISADVANTAGE.
THE PROFESSOR DIDN'T THINK THE FIRST MOVE WOULD BE TAKEN, BUT HE WAS TOO LATE TO RESPOND.
This is bad.
THE TWO PARTIES
HAD EACH MADE A MISCALCULATION

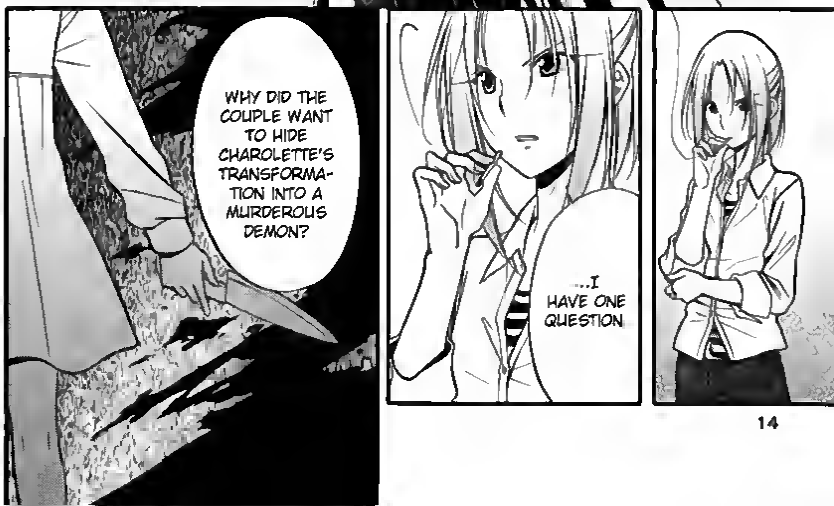
ONE OF THE PROFESSOR'S SUBORDINATES CORNERED BY THE AMANAE COUPLE SEEM TO HAVE THOUGHT...
THAT IF THEY TOOK THE CHILDREN HOSTAGE, THEY WOULD HAVE THE UPPER HAND.
ONE OF THOSE CHILDREN WAS ONLY A SIX YEAR OLD BLADE CHILDREN.
SO THERE WAS NO NEED TO BE AFRAID.
HE, BY HIMSELF,
CHASED AFTER THE TWO GIRLS WHO WERE HIDING INSIDE THE HOUSE.
HOWEVER, THAT WAS A MISTAKE.
THAT SUBORDINATE RECEIVED A FATAL WOUND FROM THE GIRLS' COUNTERATTACK.
AND IN RETALIATION, ONE OF THE GIRLS WERE KILLED.
AS FOR THE OTHER SIDE, THE PROFESSOR WAS ALSO IN TROUBLE.
THEY FINALLY GAINED CONTROL OVER THE AMANAE COUPLE.
MERA MERA ON FIRE
BUT THE SERVERELY WOUNDED AMANAE COUPLE HAD THE READINESS TO DIE AND SET THE HOUSE ON FIRE.


EVEN FOR THE PROFESSOR, EVERYTHING WAS UNEXPECTED.
THE INCIDENT BECAME KNOWN AS AN "UNFORTUNATE ACCIDENT."
THE PROFESSOR THOUGHT THAT AT THIS RATE, HE WOULD BE EXTERMINATED ALTOGETHER.
SO HE RETRIEVED THE WOUNDED SUBORDINATES,
AND SOMEHOW, FLED THE HOUSE
THEY WERE ABLE TO ESCAPE RIGHT BEFORE THE RESIDENTS OF THE AREA GATHERED AROUND THE FIRE
AND SO,
THE AMANAE COUPLE CONCEALED THE TRUTH WITHIN THE HOUSE ENGULFED BY THE FLAMES.
"THE MUDEROUS BLADE CHILDREN CHARLOTTE INJURIED YUKINE,
SO THE MARRIED COUPLE TRIED TO STOP HER.
THEY ENDED UP SETTING THE HOUSE ON FIRE WITH CHARLOTTE AND THEMSELVES INSIDE."

...AND THAT'S HOW IT GOES.
..SO THE AMANAE COUPLE THEMSELVES COVERED UP THE ACTUAL SCENE OF THE CRIME?
YES.
THE COUPLE USED THE FACT THAT ONE OF THEIR DAUGHTERS WAS KILLED BY THE PROFESSOR'S SUBORDINATE AND CREATED THE SCENE WE SEE
THE SURVIVING DAUGHTER ESCAPED OUTSIDE,
AND THE HOUSE BURNED OUT ALTOGETHER.
WELL,
WHILE I SUSPECTED THE COVER UP, I DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING.
THE AUTHORIZED PEOPLE WHO INSPECTED THE RUINS CONCLUDED THAT IT WAS JUST AS THE COUPLE HAD PLANNED,
AND THE INCIDENT WAS BURIED IN DARKNESS.

SLAM
AFTER-WARDS,
THE PROFESSOR WASN'T ABLE TO FIND THE FILE FROM THE DECEASED COUPLE'S ARTICLES.
THEY WERE CAREFUL NOT LET THEIR INVOLVEMENT BE PUBLICIZED BY THE SURVIVING GIRL'S TESTIMONY.
BUT THE FILE WAS NOT FOUND,
AND SINCE THE GIRL WAS IN SHOCK AND HER MEMORY IN DISARRAY, THE CASE WAS WITHDRAWN
IT SEEMS THE PROFESSOR DIDN'T WANT TO FURTHER TORMENT THE UNRELATED GIRL WHO DIDN'T HAVE THE FILE.

BUT NINE YEARS LATER,
THE GIRL WHO SURVIVED STARTED PLOTTING REVENGE.
THAT'S WHERE WE ARE NOW.


WHY DID THE COUPLE WANT TO HIDE CHAROLETTE'S TRANSFORMA-TION INTO A MURDEROUS DEMON?
...I HAVE ONE QUESTION

ALL OF THE CASES INVOLVING THE BLADE CHILDREN ARE BURIED IN THE DARKNESS.
GIVEN THE SITUATION, EVEN WITHOUT USING SUCH A COVER UP, IT STILL WOULD HAVE BEEN THE SAME RESULT.
IF THE TRANSFORMATION WAS REVEALED, THE INVESTIGATION WOULD HAVE BEEN QUICKLY DROPPED.
AND THEY WOULDN'T HAVE TO QUESTION THE SURVIVING GIRL SO DEEPLY.
IT WOULD HAVE BEEN BEST FOR THAT CHILD.
THE PROFESSOR WOULD THINK SO TOO.
WHAT'S SO BAD ABOUT THAT?
COVERING UP THE SCENE WOULD HAVE CERTAINLY ENDED THE INVESTIGATION FASTER
BUT EVEN THOUGH THE COUPLE WITHSTOOD SEVERE WOUNDS,
THEY WENT THROUGH ALL THE TROUBLE FOR A RESULT THAT WOULDN'T CHANGE.
WELL, YOU SEE...
THE COUPLE'S PRIMARY OBJECTIVE WAS TO KEEP "AMANAE YUKINE" ALIVE.
pote
YES, THAT'S WHY..
EVEN WITHOUT THE COVER UP, FOR THE SURVIVING GIRL TO BE FACING SUCH AN INVESTIGATION-
OH.

THE SURVIVING GIRL IS "YUKINE" BUT...
EH?
SMILE
DID I REALLY SAY THAT?

rattle
ジャラ

Clench
NUAA
aaaaH
That damn bitch!
Even till the very end, I get this kind of treatment!!
ROLLING
ROLLING
OUCH

COME TO THINK OF IT...
I HAD FUN WHEN WE WERE TOGETHER.
BUT THAT WAS ALSO SADDENING.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT NARUMI KIYOTAKA WANTS WITH YOU,
BUT I'LL LEAVE YOU LIKE THIS FOR THE TIME BEING.
WE PROBABLY WON'T MEET AGAIN...
BECAUSE I'LL BE DYING SOON.
.....

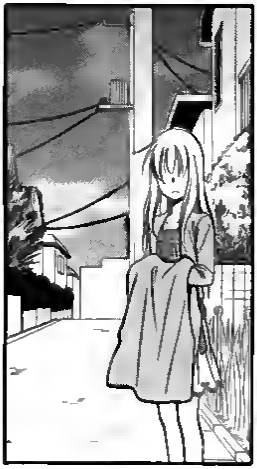
DRAG
すぅ
HMPH
What's with that "Because I'll be dying soon"...!!
There's no way I'd let you!!
No matter who you are, I won't let you do as you like!
すぅ
DRAG
rustle
...Damn this is tight!
DON'T YOU HAVE BUSINESS WITH A MISSING PERSON?
Y-...
YOU ARE...
!

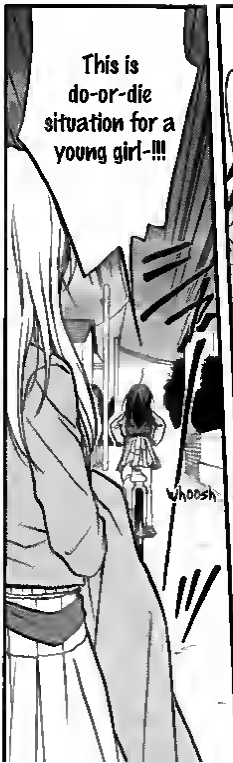
THE MYSTERIOUS FORTUNE-TELLER!
OH NO.
GRAB
.....
SO IF YOU'RE ACTUALLY UGLY, WILL YOU LET ME SAY THAT YOU ARE UGLY?
THAT'S BECAUSE IT IS A TRADE SECRET.
YOU MEAN THE MYSTERIOUS BEAUTIFUL FORTUNE-TELLER.
LIKE I SAID, I CAN'T TELL WHETHER YOU REALLY ARE BEAUTIFUL OR NOT WITH THAT SETUP.

TA-DA
LOOK,
QUITE BEAUTIFUL, DON'T YOU AGREE?
...HMM
.....
IT'S NOT WHAT I EXPECTED...

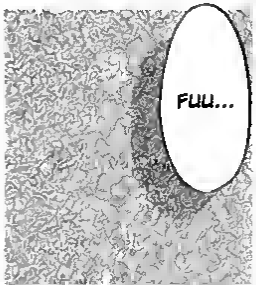
*NOTE: LITERALLY TRANSLATED AS "PEREGRINE FALCON". HAYABUSA IS A TYPE OF BICYCLE. BUT IT'S MORE WELL-KNOWN FOR SPORT BIKES AS SUZUKI HAYABUSA.
Daah!
On top of that, I was even thinking about lending you this Hayabusa* model...
sigh
I was just about to untie those ropes and tell you the missing person's whereabouts.
Ugh.
So, in any case, untie these ropes!
busy busy
Definitely beautiful!
That was my mistake!
You really are beautiful!
stop
And tell me Amanae's whereabouts!

CLANK
All right.

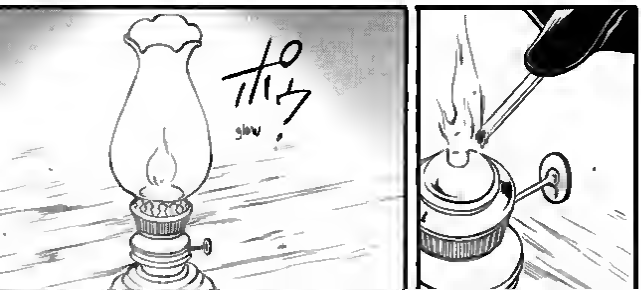



This is do-or-die situation for a young girl-!!!
whoosh

GRIP
Let's go!
Hayabusa!


Fuu...

WITH THIS, I HAVE DONE MY ROLE FOR NOW.
...WELL, EVERYONE.
PLEASE FINISH THIS AS HAPPILY AS POSSIBLE. ALL RIGHT?


shu

...
SHEFFIELD.

YOU SAID THAT YOU WERE NEARLY KILLED BY AMANAE'S PARENTS.
BUT, EVEN SO, THAT DOESN'T MEAN YOU WERE THE VICTIM.
YOU WERE THE ONE WHO MADE THE FIRST MOVE UNDER THOSE CIRCUMSTANCES.
NONETHELESS, WHAT YOUR SUBORDINATE DID ..
KILLING A YOUNG CHILD...
SHE WAS A YOUNG BLADE CHILDREN
A CHILD WHO MUST BE PUT TO DEATH.
clench
...TO AMANAE YUKINE, SHE WAS HER PRECIOUS YOUNGER SISTER.
THAT'S RIGHT.

NO ONE WISHES FOR IT.
REVENGE REALLY ISN'T RIGHT.
SHE WAS A YOUNGER SISTER WHO WAS MEANT TO DIE.
THAT AMANAE GIRL IS NOT NECESSARILY RIGHT.
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?
...AMANAE YUKINE?
THEY DIDN'T COVER UP THE ACTUAL CRIME SCENE TO PROTECT YOU FOR SOMETHING LIKE THIS, RIGHT?
LITTLE SISTER...
YOUR
YOU COULD HAVE LIVED A NORMAL LIFE AND ENJOYED LIVING AS MUCH AS YOU LIKE .
UNLIKE THE BLADE CHILDREN, YOU WEREN'T BORN TO BE A CRIMINAL
UNLIKE YOUR PARENTS, YOU AREN'T GUILTY OF ANY CRIME

WHY DID YOU ONLY CHOOSE REVENGE...!?
WELL, WHAT DID YOU MEAN WHEN YOU SAID YOU NEEDED SAWAMURA FOR SOMETHING?
SINCE THAT BOY LOOKS LIKE HE WANTS TO BE USEFUL, I'LL LET HIM DO IT.
YOU CAN'T IGNORE PEOPLE LIKE THAT WITHOUT UPSETTING THEM.
THAT'S THE MOST EFFECTIVE AGAINST THE AMANAE GIRL.
AND THAT BOY, IS OF ABSOLUTE RIGHTEOUSNESS.

HIS OBJECTIVE IS THE MIKANAGI FILE.
AND THE CONTENTS OF THE FILE IS ONLY IN AMANAE'S MEMORY
...BUT, NOW WHAT?
...IT'S CERTAINLY MORE EFFECTIVE THAN YOUR JUST ARGUMENT.
IF I WERE THAT KIND OF PERSON STANDING THERE, IT WOULDN'T BE INTERESTING
I SEE...
HE WAS AN EXPERT IN MEDICINE!
WITH ALL THAT SHE'S BEEN THROUGH, WOULD SHE TALK AT ALL?

HE HAS THE TRUTH SERUM!
SINCE THERE WAS THE DANGER OF KILLING AMANAE WITH THE SIDE EFFECTS OF THE STRONG DRUG,
HE HASN'T BEEN ABLE TO USE IT.
BUT IF AMANAE IS SHAKEN AND HER MENTAL RESISTANCE BECOMES WEAK,
IT IS POSSIBLE TO MAKE HER CONFESS WITH THE SIDE EFFECTS OF A LIGHT DRUG!
-THE PERIMETER OF THIS PLACE...
IS ALREADY SURROUNDED BY SEVENTY THREE SOLDIERS.
WITH THE EXCEPTION OF AMANAE YUKINE, THEY WERE ORDERED NOT TO LET ANYONE ELSE ENTER.

BEFORE NARUMI KIYOTAKA CAN CARRY OUT WHATEVER PLANS HE HAS, I NEED TO WEAKEN THE GIRL'S MIND AND PRESSURE HER.
I HAVE ENOUGH TIME TO WAIT FOR A SITUATION IN WHICH I CAN USE THE DRUG.
BUT I CAN KEEP THIS GIRL DOWN JUST BY SUMMONING FIVE PEOPLE.
I DON'T KNOW IF THAT GUY MADE ANY OTHER PREPARATIONS
AND THE ROLE OF THIS TAKAMACHI RYOUKO IS ALSO ON MY MIND
AND EVEN IF THAT GUY IS NEARBY, HE CAN'T DO ANYTHING.
...IN ANY CASE,
IF I CAN GET MY HANDS ON THE FILE, HE PROBABLY WON'T BE ANGRY.

MY OPPONENT IS ONLY A LITTLE GIRL.
IF I MUST, I STEALING THE FILE WILL BE-
CLANK
.....A
rattle

AMANAE
!!!
.....

HEY RYOUKO-SAN,
ABOUT SAWAMURA,
IT SEEMS YOU DIDN'T BUY ENOUGH TWIG
RATTLE
Whoosh

SHEFFIELD.
I WON'T LET YOU GET YOUR HANDS ON THE FILE.
I AM THE REASON FOR YOUR FEAR.
I AM THE BLADE THAT WILL CUT YOU DOWN.

ぱくっ
munch
...THAT RIO...
LEAVING SUCH DANGEROUS OBJECTS AROUND LIKE THIS...
SCREECH
キキキキ
BAM
はっ
deep sigh
THAT WAS DANGER-OUS ..
drops
WHAT WAS THAT?

ARE YOU ALONE?!
SCREECH
HEY, GLASSES BOY!
...EXCUSE ME?
BETTER YOU THAN NO ONE!!
IT'S FRUSTATING, BUT I HAVE NO CHANCE AGAINST THAT BITCH ALONE!
WE HAVE TO STOP AMANAE!
GET ON THE BIKE!
I'LL EXPLAIN THE DETAILS LATER!
WHAT ARE YOU THINKING?!!
OR RATHER,
YEAH, I'M ALONE!

JUST GET ON!
BAM
SHE'S NOT WHO SHE SEEMS TO BE!!
DOES SHE REALLY THINK SHE CAN WIN IN THIS SITUATION?
EVEN THOUGH SHE DOESN'T SEEM TO BE CARRYING MUCH WEAPONS.
I FEEL A STRANGE PRESENCE FROM THAT GIRL.
...IS IT JUST MY IMAGINATION?

I HEARD ABOUT YOUR PAST FROM THAT MAN.
IT LOOKS LIKE THERE ARE THINGS YOU DON'T KNOW
AMANAE.
BUT JUST IN CASE, I SHOULD BE ON GUARD.
!
Pull
BUT, I DON'T PARTICULARY CARE IF IT'S A LIE OR NOT.
AT THE VERY LEAST, THAT MAN WON'T SAY CONTRADICTIONS TO HIS OWN BELIEFS.
WHY WOULD THAT MAN TELL A LIE AT A TIME LIKE THIS?
OF COURSE, THERE IS ALSO THE POSSIBILITY THAT MAN IS LYING...
IF THE LIE IS EXPOSED, HE WOULD LOSE THE ALLIES HE SPENT SO MUCH EFFORT TO GET.

AND I AGREE WITH WHAT THAT MAN THINKS.
HAVING MY MOTHER AND FATHER KILLED COULDN'T BE HELPED.
EVEN IF THEY WERE TO DIE IN SOME HORRIBLE WAY,
JUST FROM THAT, IT CAN BE SAID THAT IT CAN'T BE HELPED.
THAT'S WHY, SHEFFIELD,
I AM NOT THINKING OF AVENGING MY FATHER AND MOTHER.
THE TWO OF THEM REALIZED THE BLADE CHILDREN'S DESTRUCTION.
IT'S THE SAME FOR CHARLOTTE.
CHARLOTTE ALSO FEARED HER OWN EXISTENCE.
SHE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE BETTER IF SHE DIED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

AND THAT'S WHY,
I AM ALSO NOT THINKING OF AVENGING CHARLOTTE.
-WHAT IS SHE SAYING...?

AMANAE!
THEN WHAT DID YOU COME HERE FOR?!
FOR UNMISTAKEN REVENGE.
I CAME HERE...
TO AVENGE AMANAE YUKINE WHO DIED NINE YEARS AGO

SHE COULDN'T BE..!!
NO WAY...
SHEF-FIELD...
WE HAD THE INTENTION OF GOING AGAINST AMANAE YUKINE
AND WE THOUGHT ABOUT HOW TO DEAL WITH IT.
BUT SHE DIDN'T EVEN LOSE COMPOSURE.
SHE IS NOT AMANAE YUKINE
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
SHE IS NOT SOMEONE WHO WISHES TO LIVE...!
SHE IS THE AMANAE'S DAUGHTER.
HAVE YOU NOT REALIZED IT YET?

tap
THEY PROTECTED HER TO THE VERY END!
AMANAE'S PARENTS...
HER SISTER...
NINE YEARS AGO,
SHE AND THE REAL AMANAE YUKINE SWITCHED PLACES!
...LISTEN, SHEFFIELD
I AM ONE OF THOSE CHILDREN WHO ARE MEANT DIE,

step
THE BLADE CHILDREN, CHARLOTTTE.
THAT'S RIGHT. I AM CHARLOTTE.
I AM ONE OF THOSE CHILDREN WHO NO LONGER HAVE HOPE.
AND WHO YOU FEAR SO MUCH.

I'M GOING.
YUKINE-CHAN.

スパイラル・アライヴ
[əláiv]

SPIRAL ALIVE

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TIVE
This originally isn't "Shefield" (small spelling) as Sheffield because of previous group translations. But since the story actually have two "S" starting from this chapter, Sheffield will now be Sheffield

I AM CHARLOTTE,
THE BLADE CHILDREN CHARLOTTE

BLADE CHILDREN...
...SHE'S A BLADE CHILDREN?

CHAPTER 23
CHARLOTTE

AMANAE YUKINE IS CHARLOTTE!?
WAIT, HOLD ON!
NO MATTER HOW YOU LOOK AT IT, SHE'S DEFINITELY OLDER THAN ME!
IDIOT! THAT LITTLE GIRL IS THE SAME AGE AS YOU!
THEN DOES THAT MEAN SHE'S THE SAME AGE AS ME!?
SHE SAID SO HERSELF!
SHE'S ONE OF THOSE BLADE WHATEVER JUST LIKE YOU!
DAMN .. I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS.
BUT IF THAT'S THE CASE, THERE SEEMS TO BE SOME REVERSE PATTERN!
IF AMANAE REALLY IS CHARLOTTE,
HOW DID SHE HIDE THE FRACTURED RIB THAT MARKS A BLADE CHILDREN!?

TCH...
SO IT WAS LIKE THAT!
NINE YEARS AGO, THE GIRL WHO CRAWLED OUT OF THE HOUSE WAS STABBED REPEATEDLY IN THE CHEST.
SO, IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO CONFIRM HER IDENTITY.
AND THE CORPSE OF THE DAUGHTER FOUND IN THE RUINS...
COULDN'T HAVE HER RIBS CHECKED BECAUSE SHE WAS CRUSHED BY THE FALLEN PILLARS FROM THE FIRE

BUT IF YUKINE AND CHARLOTTE SWITCHED PLACES,
WOULDN'T THERE BE A PROBLEM WITH THEIR DIFFERENCES IN MEMORY AND PERSONALITY?
-NO.

"BEING IN SHOCK FROM THE INCIDENT" COULD EXPLAIN THAT.
SO EVEN WITH A JUMBLED MEMORY OR PERSONALITY CHANGE,
NO MATTER THE ISSUES, THERE'S PLENTY OF EXPLANATIONS-
ON TOP OF THAT, FOR THE REASON OF "WANTING TO QUICKLY FORGET THE INCIDENT",
IT WASN'T UNUSUAL FOR HER TO CUT OFF HUMAN CONTACT!
IF THEY HAD RESEMBLING FEATURES AND WERE ESPECIALLY CLOSE,
NO ONE COULD TELL IF THEY SWITCHED PLACES
-OR MAYBE

"CHARLOTTE"
THEY SWITCH PLACES BECAUSE NO ONE WOULD NOTICE!!
EVEN WITH A WESTERN-STYLED NAME,
THE CHILD HAD JAPANESE BLOOD.
WOULDN'T IT BE IMPOSSIBLE NOT TO FEEL AFFECTION TOWARD SOMEONE WHO LOOKS JUST LIKE YOUR OWN DAUGHTER?
THE AMANAE COUPLE TOOK CUSTODY OF THE GIRL.
BUT SINCE SHE LOOKED A LOT LIKE THEIR OWN DAUGHTER, THEY WERE EVEN MORE WILLING TO TAKE HER IN.
THEY FELT OBLIGATED TO DO SO BECAUSE SHE WAS RELATED TO THEIR PROJECT.
THAT'S WHY SHE HAS BLACK HAIR, BLACK EYES, AND OTHER JAPANESE FEATURES.
chk
chk
AND BECAUSE OF HER QUICK GROWTH,
SHE LOOKS OLDER THAN HER ACTUAL AGE.

YUKINE, THEIR REAL DAUGHTER, HAD AN UNEXPECTEDLY WEAK BODY.
SHE WOULD OFTEN FALL ILL FROM A FEVER
SO SHE COULDN'T ATTEND SCHOOL PROPERLY.
FOR THEIR DAUGTHER WHO EASILY FELT LONELY, IT WAS CONVENIENT FOR THE COUPLE TO ADOPT CHARLOTTE AS A COMPANION FOR HER.
SO, EVEN WITHOUT BEING BLOOD-RELATED,
THEY BECAME SISTERS WHO HAD SIMILAR APPEARANCES
THEY THOUGHT THAT SINCE CHARLOTTE WAS AROUND THE SAME AGE, SHE WOULD BE A GOOD INFLUENCE FOR THEIR DAUGHTER.
.. SINCE YOU SAY THEY LOOKED ALIKE, WOULDN'T PEOPLE MIX-UP THE TWO OF THEM?

AT THAT TIME,
THERE WERE ONLY A FEW PEOPLE WHO ACTUALLY MET THE REAL YUKINE.
IN ADDITION TO NOT ATTENDING SCHOOL AND HAVING FEW PHOTOS OF HERSELF, SHE DIDN'T GO OUTSIDE.
AND SINCE THE COUPLE WENT ON LONG TRIPS OVERSEAS, SHE HARDLY INTERACTED WITH HER RELATIVES.
AS A BLADE CHILDREN, THERE WERE DOCUMENTS ABOUT CHARLOTTE.
BUT SINCE SHE LOOKED JUST LIKE YUKINE, IT WOULD BE HARD TO IDENTIFY BETWEEN THE TWO OF THEM EVEN WITH A PHOTO.
AND EVEN THOUGH CHARLOTTE WAS A LITTLE MORE MATURE THAN THE REAL YUKINE-SAN,
YUKINE-SAN WAS THE OLDER SISTER AND CHARLOTTE WAS THE YOUNGER SISTER.
...CONFUSING THE TWO OF THEM IS VERY POSSIBLE, ISN'T IT?
THEN WAS THE PROFESSOR'S SUBORDINATE UNDER THE IMPRESSION THAT HE KILLED CHARLOTTE...?

INDEED.
THE AMANAE COUPLE REALIZED THE PROFESSOR AND THE OTHERS MADE A MIS-IDENTIFICATION.
SO THE COUPLE CONSIDERED REPLACING THE DEAD YUKINE WITH CHARLOTTE WHO SURVIVED.
IF CHAR-LOTTE SURVIVED AS YUKINE
SHE WOULDN'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT A FUTURE WHERE SHE WOULD BE TARGETTED AS A BLADE CHILDREN
FOR THE SAKE OF THE GIRL WHO WOULD BECOME ALL ALONE,
THE DYING COUPLE PUSHED THEMSELVES TO THE VERGE OF DEATH TO CONCEAL THEIR PLAN
NINE YEARS AGO...

INSIDE THE HOUSE ENGULFED BY FLAMES,
CHARLOTTE BECAME YUKINE,
AND YUKINE BECAME CHARLOTTE.
ALL OF THIS WAS DONE
OUT OF THE FAMILY'S LOVE FOR EACH OTHER.
.. SO
EVEN THOUGH YOU KNEW ABOUT THE SWITCH,
YOU KEPT QUIET THIS WHOLE TIME?

CONSIDERING THE INTENTIONS OF THE COUPLE AND THE REAL YUKINE,
RATHER THAN OUT OF LOVE, AREN'T THEY JUST LENDING HER A HAND?
SINCE THE INCIDENT WAS ORIGINALLY CONCEALED FROM EVERYONE, I DIDN'T NEED TO CONSIDER WHETHER THIS OR THAT OCCURRED.
EVEN THE SURVIVING GIRL'S TESTIMONY WAS NOT CONFIRMED WELL ENOUGH.
BUT
FOR THE PROFESSOR WHO JUST LEARNED ABOUT THE SWAP,
I'M SURE HE'S QUITE CONFUSED RIGHT NOW.

BUT DOING SO WILL RESULT IN THE MIKANAGI FILE BEING LOST FOREVER.
NARUMI KIYOTAKA...
SINCE I'M A BLADE CHILDREN, ARE YOU GOING TO KILL ME WITHOUT HESITATION?
WELL,
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO WITH ME?
THAT MAN KNEW THIS ALL ALONG...?
SO YOU ARE GOING TO KEEP ME ALIVE?
IF SO, I'LL KILL YOU AND THEN COMMIT SUICIDE.

WAS EVERYTHING PLANNED TO HIDE THIS?
OR MAYBE YOU'RE GOING TO TRY USING THE TRUTH SERUM?
...NO, I DON'T THINK IT WILL HAVE MUCH EFFECT ON ME.
I'LL DIE BEFORE I SAY ANYTHING!
NO MATTER HOW YOU TRY TO BRING ME DOWN,
THE FILE THAT WILL PREVENT A DISASTER WILL BE LOST.
WHY DIDN'T I REALIZE...
WHAT WILL YOU DO,
SHEFFIELD?
WHY DIDN'T I FURTHER SUSPECT NARUMI KIYOTAKA?
YOU CAN THINK ALL YOU WANT.

THE FUTURE WHERE YOU'LL BRING A DISASTER TO THIS WORLD...
WHY DIDN'T I NOTICE...!!!
DAMMIT.
WHY DIDN'T I REALIZE IT!
THERE WERE SO MANY CLUES!

"WHY WOULD YOUR PARENTS RISK YOUR LIFE BY HAVING YOU MEMORIZE THE FILE?"
...IT'S SIMPLE.
EVEN WITHOUT THE FILE, THE FACT THAT CHARLOTTE IS A BLADE CHILDREN ALREADY JEOPARDIZES HER ENTIRE LIFE.
BUT WITH THE FILE IN HER HEAD, PEOPLE WOULD THINK TWICE ABOUT KILLING HER.
IT WAS ACTUALLY HELPFUL FOR CHARLOTTE.
FROM BEFORE THE INCIDENT TO WHEN SHE INHERITED THE FILE... IT ALL MAKES SENSE!
"CHARLOTTE IS NOT LIKE THIS GIRL.
SHE'S COMPLETELY DIFFERENT."
YEAH, YOU'RE RIGHT.
THE ONE WHO SEKIGUCHI IMARI RESEMBLES IS THE REAL AMANAE YUKINE!

"I'VE NEVER THOUGHT ABOUT AVENGING CHARLOTTE."
...YEAH
YOU WERE TRYING TO GET REVENGE FOR THE REAL AMANAE YUKINE
"CHARLOTTE BECAME A MURDEROUS DEMON."
FOR THE SAKE OF REVENGE, YOU BECAME A MURDEROUS DEMON WHO ALREADY KILLED SIX PEOPLE
"CHARLOTTE WAS A CHILD WHO WAS BOUND TO DIE."
"I WASN'T ABLE TO PROTECT WHAT WAS REALLY IMPORTANT TO ME."
SHE HAS ALWAYS
THOUGHT ABOUT HOW SHE PROTECTED HERSELF WHILE THE REAL YUKINE DIED...

SHE HAS BEEN BLAMING HERSELF FOR NOT PROTECTING "ONEE-CHAN"!!
...TCH
HEY! IS AMANAE REALLY..
IS CHARLOTTE REALLY AT THE PARK IN THE OUTSKIRTS!?
IS SHE PLANNING TO FULFILL HER REVENGE THERE!?
Yeah! The beautiful fortune-teller said so!
THERE'S NO WAY I COULD BELIEVE THAT!!
ITE!
...BUT WHAT EXACTLY WILL WE BE IN TIME FOR!?
WE CAN MAKE IT!

RIO.
TIME FOR THE PRECEDINGS.
Tak
THERE ARE SEVENTY THREE SOLDIERS STATIONED AT THE PARK TO PREVENT OUR INTERFERENCE.
SINCE TWO MORE WILL BE COMING LATER, MAKE SURE TO DISPOSE ALL OF THEM
ROGER.

WE SHOULD DO WHAT WE CAN FOR AMANAE!
WHATEVER WE CAN TO HELP HER!!

It's costume time!
Well then, open the trunk!
WHEN CHARLOTTE RAN OUTSIDE
AND LEFT HER STEPSISTER AND SUBSTITUTE FAMILY INSIDE THE BURNING HOUSE
I WONDER HOW SHE FELT.
sob
trot
カポ
THESE NINE YEARS
SHE WAS LIVING UNDER THE NAME OF HER BELOVED SISTER
I WONDER WHAT WAS SHE THINKING.
rustle
rustle
WELL...

...SO,
I'm thinking of how the Mikanagi File will soon be in my hands... stuff like that
RIGHT NOW,
WHAT EXACTLY ARE YOU THINKING?
WILL YOU REALLY BE ABLE TO GET YOUR HANDS ON IT IN THAT?
ARE YOU TRICKING THE PROFESSOR AND LETTING CHARLOTTE CARRY OUT HER REVENGE?
AFTER THE GIRL FULFILLS HER REVENGE, WON'T SHE WILLINGLY DIE ALONG WITH THE FILE?
Yup.
SHE HASN'T THOUGHT OF ANY OTHER WAY OTHER THAN THAT.
CHE
PREPARATIONS COMPLETE.

Oh, it looks good on you.
The fun's about to begin.
Well, feel free to watch.
MANAE!
DON'T GO!

I AM A BLADE CHILDREN.
A CHILD WHO MUST DIE.
IT'S USELESS.

ALL I HAVE IS THIS REVENGE.
YOUR HAND
IS IN THE WAY.
clench
THIS HAND ISN'T GOING TO LET GO.

NO MATTER WHO YOU ARE,
OR WHAT HAPPENS,
IF I LET YOU GO, I DON'T THINK YOU CAN BE SAVED.
IF IT'S HER-...
STOP HER?
IF SHE WAS A ORDINARY YOUNG GIRL, THEN IT MAY BE POSSIBLE.
IF SHE WAS A NORMAL HUMAN CHILD, THERE WOULD DEFINITELY BE A CHANCE TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF HER.
WITH THE WAY SAWAMURA IS NOW, I DON'T KNOW IF HE CAN STOP AMANAE.
.....

BUT THAT IS...
A BLADE CHILDREN.
crack
ゴト.
SINCE PEOPLE MAY WISH TO CHOOSE A DIFFERENT PATH IN LIFE,
THEY GET SHAKEN,
HESITATE,
AND STOP THEMSELVES.
BUT SINCE THAT GIRL CAN'T WISH FOR ANYTHING BUT DEATH,
SHE HAS NO INTENTION OF BEING SHAKEN.
A NORMAL TRUTH SERUM WOULD HAVE NO EFFECT
IF A STRONGER SUBSTANCE WERE TO BE USED, SHE'LL DIE WITHOUT REVEALING MUCH.

I AM A HUNTER.
SO I BELIEVE THOSE CHILDREN SHOULD DIE
BLADE CHILDREN LIKE YOURSELF...
SHOULDN'T BE THINKING THERE'S HOPE FOR YOUR FUTURE.
THE BLADE CHILDREN SHOULD PERISH.
SHE WON'T SAY ANYTHING.
AND SHE WON'T STOP
IF I TRIED TO STOP HER, SHE'LL HAPPILY DIE
THAT GIRL HAS ALREADY ACCEPTED HER FATE.
THIS IS THE ULTIMATE REVENGE.

NO MATTER WHAT I DO TO TORMENT THAT GIRL, EVERYTHING IS AGAINST ME...!
AS A HUNTER, I SHOULD BE THE ONE WHO IS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS.
IN ORDER TO AVOID DESTRUCTION, I HAVE KILLED COUNTLESS CHILDREN.
THE CHOICES I MADE SHOULDN'T HAVE BEEN WRONG.
THIS IS—
WHAT KIND OF CONCLUSION IS THIS...?!
I LED MYSELF TO MY OWN DESTRUCTION—...

...NO.
EVEN AFTER SHE FULFILLS HER REVENGE, SHE WON'T HAND OVER THE MIKANAGI FILE TO ANYONE
SO KIYOTAKA MUST HAVE SET SOME SORT OF TRAP.
THAT'S RIGHT. KIYOTAKA MUST HAVE MENTALLY SHOCK HER.
SHE SHOULD BE UNSTABLE NOW!
-SAWA MURA...!

DON'T LET GO OF MY HAND!
THAT MIGHT BE THE KEY!
SAWAMURA
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU HAVE DONE IN THE PAST
OR WHAT YOU FAILED TO DO
BUT IF YOU AREN'T GOING TO LET GO
YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO DO WHAT YOU COULDN'T DO IN THE PAST
I...
DON'T WANT TO HAVE ANY MORE REGRETS.

EVEN IF I HADN'T DONE ANYTHING, I COULDN'T HAVE BEEN SAVED.
YOU CAN'T SAVE ME FROM THIS REVENGE EITHER
IT'S JUST THAT,
I HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO DO THE DEED SO THAT I WON'T FORGET THESE PRECIOUS FEELINGS.
IF YOU DON'T LET GO,
YOU'RE GOING TO REGRET IT.
...I'M NOT GOING TO LET GO,
AMANAE.
THERE'S NO WAY I'M LETTING GO.

I HOPE YOU AREN'T BEING SERIOUS.
...LIKE WHAT?
I WANT TO MEET YUKINE-CHAN ONE MORE TIME.
IN CASE YOU ARE LYING, I ALSO HAVE SOMETHING TO TAKE CARE OF.
SHE MISTAKENLY WENT TO HEAVEN
slide
EVEN AT BIRTH, IT WAS ALREADY IMPOSSIBLE FOR ME TO GO THERE.
BUT FOR ME,

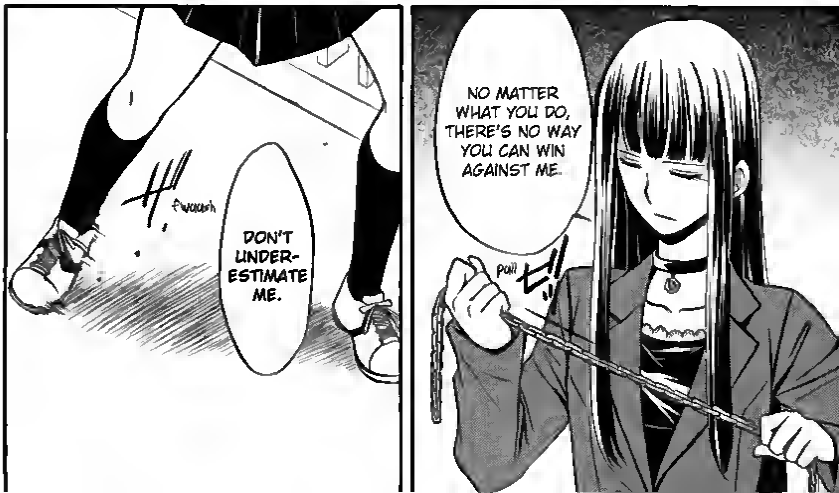
AMA...
WHENEVER THAT TIME COMES,
SO SAWAMURA,
WHEN YOU GO TO HEAVEN IN THE FUTURE-
GRAB
PLEASE TAKE CARE OF YUKINE-CHAN.

WHOOSH
BAM

WHEN YOU WAKE UP, EVERYTHING WILL BE OVER
tug
...SAWA-MURA,
step

RYOUKO-SAN?
...ARE YOU ALSO GOING TO GET IN MY WAY.
FUU
I THOUGHT YOU'D UNDERSTAND AS A BLADE CHILDREN.
WHATEVER YOU DO... IT'S ALREADY TOO LATE.
I CAN'T LET YOU SHAKE OFF SAWAMURA.
YEAH.
EVEN YOU SAID THAT BLADE CHILDREN HAVE NO HOPE.

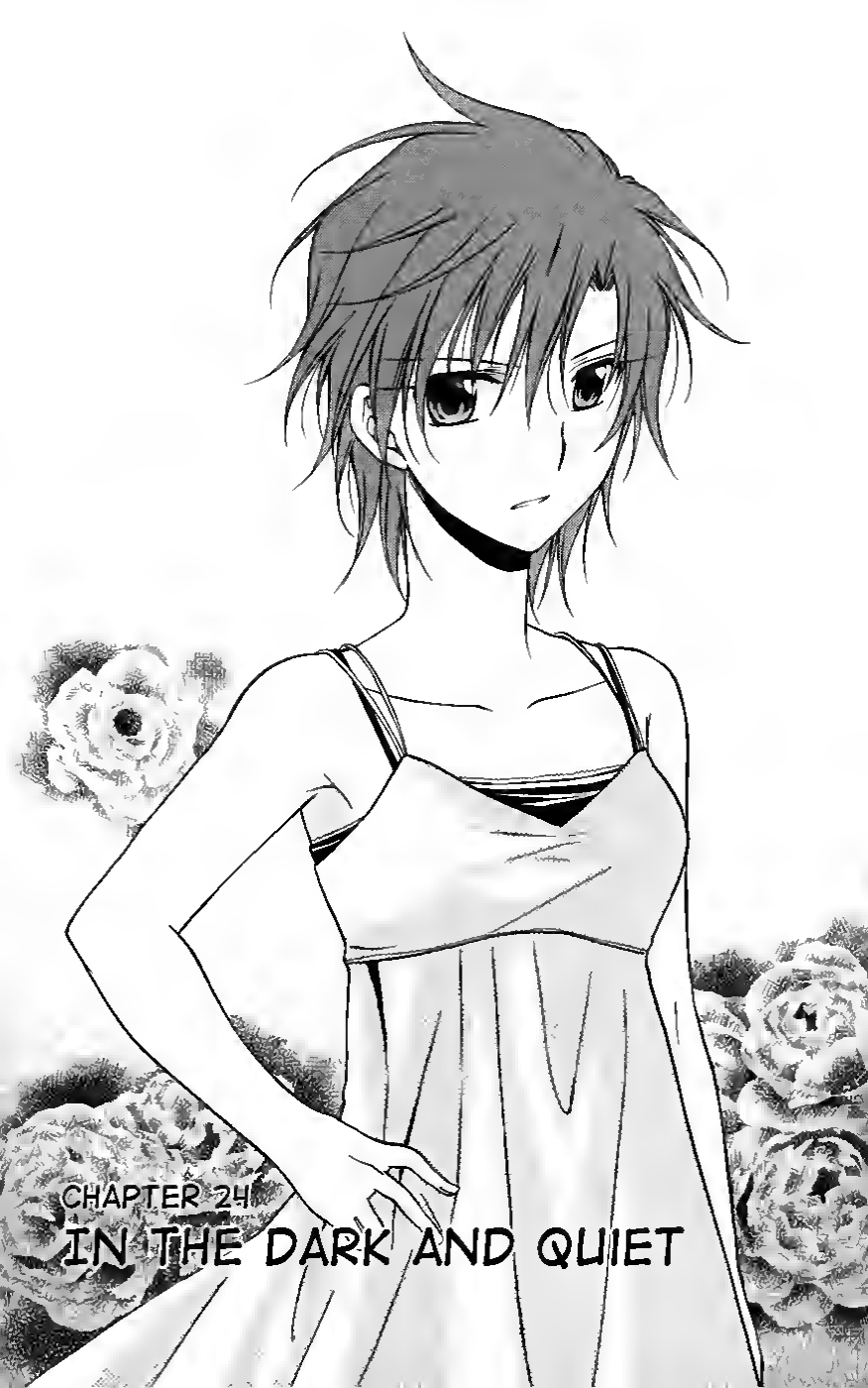
JUST SHUT UP!
I CAN'T JUST STAND HERE AND DO NOTHING!
...GOOD.
ching


DON'T UNDER-ESTIMATE ME.
fwoosh
NO MATTER WHAT YOU DO, THERE'S NO WAY YOU CAN WIN AGAINST ME.
pull

THIS TIME,
I'M NOT GOING TO HOLD BACK.

SPIRAL ALIVE

Spiral Alive
White Cloud Scans
Translator/Editor
Yumina
Redrawers
Anonymous
Raws
Special thanks to the new redrawers.
Thank you for your help!



CHAPTER 24

IN THE DARK AND QUIET

...THIS HAS BECOME A STRANGE DEVELOPMENT,
BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN THE SITUATION HAS IMPROVED.

SFX: KA-BOOM
IN ANY CASE, I CAN'T DO ANYTHING BY MYSELF.
I SHOULD AT LEAST CALL BACK THE STATIONED TROOPS—
DA-
BOO
OM
BO
OM
scratch
NARUMI KIYOTAKA!!
WHAT EXACTLY ARE YOU PLANNING!?

DA-
BOOOM
BOOM
BOOM
WHAT WAS THAT EXPLOSION?
WHO KNOWS.
IT'S MOST LIKELY NARUMI KIYOTAKA DOING
KA-CHING
WELL THEN,
HERE I COME!!
SHOOM

IS THAT...
A KOALA?
toss
WAIT..
WHY IS THERE A KOALA HERE...!?
Hehehe
The koala is not your only concern.
DA-BOOM
A KOALA WENT THAT WAY!
DON'T CHASE IT SO CARELESSLY! IT'S A TRAP!
BOOM
KA-BOOM
FALL BACK AND RE-GROUP!
beem
LOADING

WH...
WHAT THE...
BAM
REVEAL
BUZZ
Bravo, bravo.
EVIL GRIN
Hahaha
BOOM
UWAAA
THUD
BASH
Fuha haha ha
BOOM

DA-BOOM
THEY'RE GOING TO BE TRAUMATIZED FOR THE REST OF THEIR LIVES AFTER BEING ATTACKED BY SUCH CREATURES IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT.
BOOM
KA-BOOM
HOW PITIFUL...
FUU—
.....
WITH THIS,
WILL THINGS TURN OUT FINE?

SCRAPE
WOOSH
ha
ha
IT'S OBVIOUS THAT I'M BEING OVER-WHELMED ...
WOOSH
BUT...
BUT THERE'S A CHANCE.
I'M FASTER AT ATTACKING.
THAT DOESN'T MEAN I CAN WIN...!

IF SO, THAT'S FINE.
I HAVE TO HOLD OUT AT LEAST UNTIL SAWAMURA WAKES UP.
THIS ISN'T JUST ABOUT WINNING!
SWOOSH
CLENCH
GRAB

AMANAE...
NO...
CHARLOTTE.
WHY DID YOU STAY QUIET THIS WHOLE TIME?
THE PARENTS WHO RAISED YOU,
AND THE REAL YUKINE,
IS THIS WHAT THEY REALLY WANTED?
IS THIS WHY THEY LET YOU BECOME "AMANAE YUKINE"?

STRIKE
LET GO
EVEN THOUGH BEING A BLADE CHILDREN COMES WITH UNBEARABLE FEAR AND ANXIETY,
I'M STILL ALIVE JUST LIKE AN ORDINARY PERSON.
AT LEAST, UNTIL THE SWITCH,
WEREN'T YOU ABLE TO HAVE A DECENT LIFE?!
Twitch
BAM
YES,
I TRIED TO DO SO.
AMANAE'S FATHER AND MOTHER,
AND YUKINE-CHAN
WANTED YOU TO LIVE YOUR LIFE AS A NORMAL CHILD.
BUT IT WAS POINT-LESS.

THE TRUTH IS,
FOR SOME YEARS AGO, THE TRIGGER INSIDE ME ALREADY WENT OFF.
SEEING THE SCENE OF THAT DAY IN MY DREAMS EVERY NIGHT.
MY HATRED AWAKENS EACH TIME.
WHAT WASN'T ME TOOK CONTROL OF ME.
Swoosh
Flip
Clench
Slap

BECAUSE I HATED MYSELF, I WAS ABLE TO MOVE FORWARD.
BUT AS LONG AS I THOUGHT OF AVENGING YUKINE-CHAN I WAS ABLE TO BARELY BE MYSELF.
BUT BEFORE THAT,
I AM NO LONGER MYSELF NOW.
BUT HOW LONG WILL THAT LAST TOO?
I CAN ONLY FORGET EVERYTHING AND DIE.
I WILL LEAVE THIS WORLD THROUGH REVENGE.

HER TRIGGER IS GOING TO GO OFF...
SO EVEN IF I STOP HER, DOES AMANE HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO DIE?
DOES SHE HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO BE KILLED?
IS THERE NO WAY TO SAVE HER!?
THE APPARATUS WHICH CAN STOP ME
ALREADY PASSED A LONG TIME AGO.
—BUT
BUT SAWAMURA SAID
HE WOULDN'T LET GO OF YOUR HAND!!
CHARGE

SHOOT...
TO ME, YUKINE-CHAN
IS THE ONLY REGRET I HAVE LEFT.
PASS
GRAB
WOOSH

whoosh
UNLIKE ME, YOU DON'T HAVE REGRETS LEFT.
BECAUSE OF THAT KOU-SUKE-KUN.
PLOP

OH YEAH,
WHY ARE YOU TRYING TO STOP AMANAE?
THAT DAMN BITCH WANTS TO DIE SO PASSIONATELY IN FRONT OF SAWAMURA!!
WELL, YOU SEE...
DO YOU THINK I'LL LET THE OPENING TO SAWAMURA'S PLEASANT MEMORIES DISAPPEAR!?
.....
That Amanae.
Kekeke.
I won't let you have such a beautiful ending!
I'll be a hindrance to your plans!!
YOU REALLY ARE TERRIBLE.
sniff
HUH?

THE SMELL OF EXPLOSIVES...?
IS...THIS RIO'S DOING...?
HEY!
GLASS-ES!

click
YOU'RE RIGHT ON SCHEDULE.
SQEAUK
..KIYO-TAKA..
SMILE
AMANAE IS...
I MEAN,
THE BLADE CHILDREN CHARLOTTE IS CLOSING IN ON HER TARGET FOR REVENGE AT THE POND INSIDE THIS PARK

WHY DID YOU HIDE THE FACT THAT AMANAE WAS ACTUALLY CHARLOTTE?
clunk
BUT IT MIGHT BE IMPOSSIBLE.
SAWAMURA AND RYOUKO TRIED TO STOP HER.
IF I EXPOSED IT WITHOUT HER PERMISSION, WON'T SHE FEEL OFFENDED?
THAT'S BECAUSE CHARLOTTE SEEMED LIKE SHE WAS TRYING TO HIDE IT.
EVEN IF I WAS POWERLESS, SHE'LL ONLY DO WHAT SHE WANTS.
むか…
grr...
IF I CARELESSLY EXPOSED IT, SHE'LL BECOME DESPERATE, RIGHT?
EVEN UNDER NORMAL CIRCUMSTANCES, SHE WOULDN'T LET GO OF THE MIKANAGI FILE

FORGET ABOUT THIS OLD MAN!
HEY!!
YOU...
gets up
AMANAE IS MORE IMPORTANT RIGHT NOW!
WE CAN'T LET THAT BITCH DO WHATEVER SHE LIKES!
PAT
IF IT'S YOU, YOU CAN WIN AGAINST CHARLOTTE
WELL THEN, GOOD LUCK, ASAZUKI.
...IS IT ALL RIGHT TO WIN?
SHOULD I REALLY TRY TO STOP HER REVENGE?

AN IDIOT SHOULDN'T THINK SO HARD.
...WHATEVER I DO, IS IT REALLY THE BEST FOR CHARLOTTE!?
YOU SHOULD JUST DO WHAT YOU THINK IS RIGHT.
...THAT BASTARD.

EVEN IF I CAN BEAT CHARLOTTE, I DON'T HAVE SUFFICIENT WEAPONS.
ALL I HAVE IS THIS ONE BOMB,
BUT IT HAS TOO MUCH DESTRUCTIVE POWER SO MAYBE I SHOULDN'T USE IT.
IF YOU NEED MORE WEAPONS, I'LL LET YOU BORROW THIS.
PULL
WHY DO YOU HAVE A NUN-CHUCK...!?
GEEZ
...AMANAE IS PROBABLY STRONGER THAN RYOUKO.
Ha...

I GUESS I HAVE NO CHOICE...
SHE MUST BE SERIOUSLY GOING ALL OUT.
COME ON, THROW IT!
IT DOESN'T SEEM LIKE I SHOULD GO WITH THIS STRATEGY
bubble
bubble
GASP
SPLASH

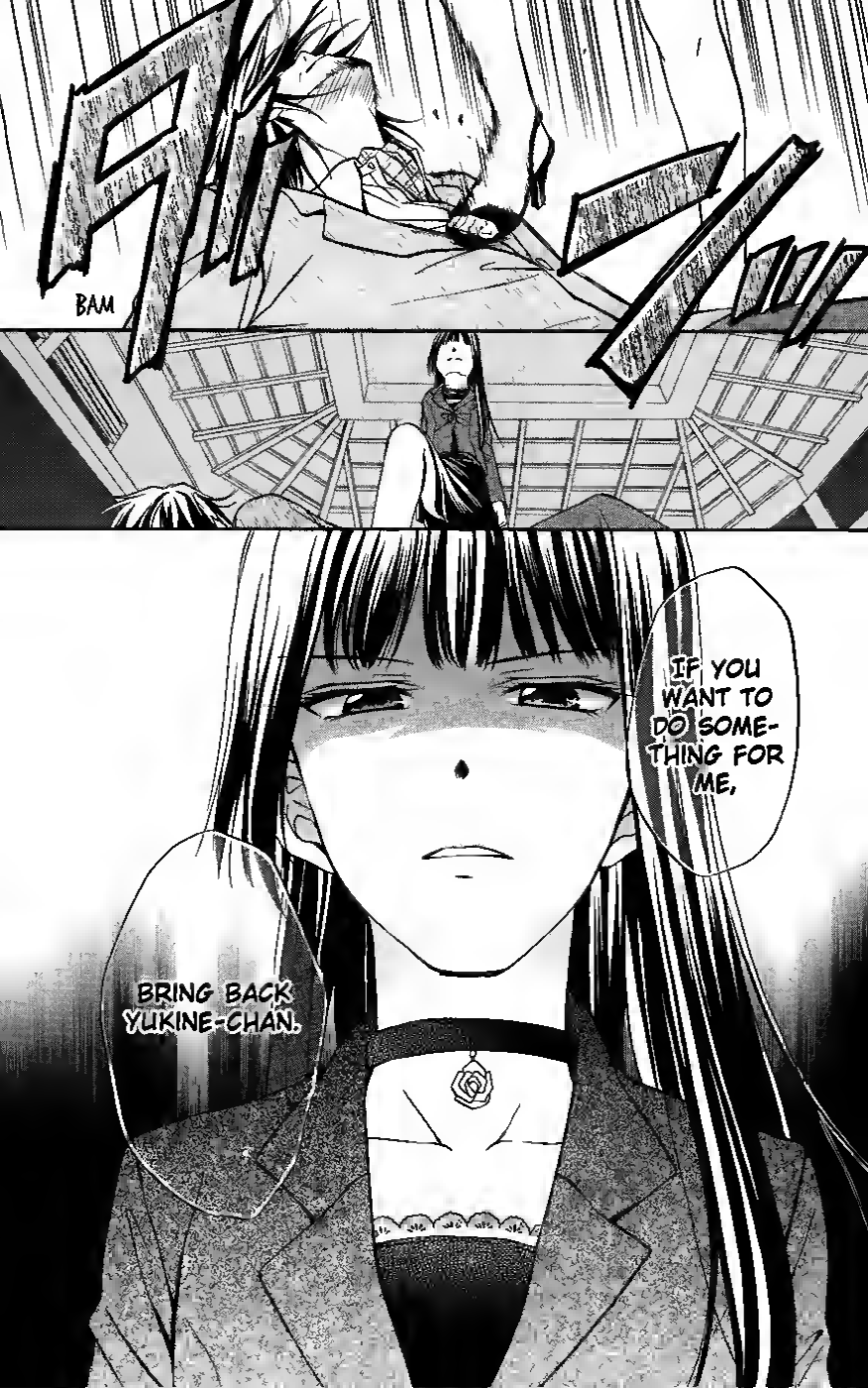
AMANAE
WHERE'S AMANAE!?
CRAP..!
I HAVE TO HURRY UP TO THE SURFACE!
...HAVE YOU DECIDED WHAT YOU SHOULD DO,
SHEF-FIELD?

IF YOU'RE GOING TO SHOOT, GO AHEAD.
sha
hold..
IF I DIE, THE MIKANAGI FILE WILL CEASE TO EXIST.
YOU'LL ONLY BECOME SOMEONE WHO DROVE THE WORLD TO RUIN FOR YOUR OWN PRECIOUS LIFE.
EVEN IF I CANNOT PHYSICALLY HARM YOU,
I CAN CRUSH YOUR SOUL.

BANG
zip
whish
eup...

SLAMP
...I'M NOT GOING TO BEG FOR MY LIFE.
I'M NOT GUILTY OF MURDERING THE AMANAE'S DAUGHTER
I DON'T CARE HOW MUCH PAIN YOU'LL PUT ME THROUGH
BUT PLEASE LET ME HAVE THE MIKANAGI FILE.
AT THE VERY LEAST, THAT'S THE ONLY—.
SORRY.
I'M NOT GOING TO LET ONLY YOU FEEL AT EASE.
KA-CHING
DETESTABLE BLADE CHILDREN
HATEFUL BLADE CHILDREN

I DETESTED MYSELF.
I HATED MYSELF.
WHEN I BECAME THE CAUSE OF YUKINE-CHAN'S DEATH, EVERYTHING...
Whoosh
EVERYTHING THAT I LIVED FOR...
THUD
WE SHOULD HAVE NEVER BEEN BORN.
WE WHO WERE CREATED HAVE NO HOPE.


BAM
IF YOU WANT TO DO SOME-THING FOR ME,
BRING BACK YUKINE-CHAN.

IT'S NO GOOD.
THERE'S NO WAY UP THIS
Haa
Haa
Haa
SAWAMURA DOESN'T LOOK LIKE HE'S GOING TO WAKE UP.
WE WON'T MAKE IT IN TIME!
KOU-SUKE...!

SORRY,
CHAR-
LOTTE.
I'M GOING TO HAVE TO GET IN YOUR WAY.
SO YOU CAME AFTER ALL,
DON'T MAKE SUCH A SCARY FACE.
...IS WHAT I SHOULD SAY.

IT'S JUST ME.
smirk
AREN'T YOU GLAD I CAME?

SPIRAL ALIVE

Spiral Alive
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Yumina
Redrawers
Anonymous
Kelielle
Raws
raw1stop
We may be recruiting soon...
Check website for more info!

CHAPTER 25
THOSE WHO WON'T FALL

SPIRAL ALIVE

ONII-CHAN?
STEP
...DIDN'T YOU SAY YOU'LL HELP ME OUT,

I WAS BORN IN NOVEMBER
OH. AM I YOUR OLDER BROTHER FOR THE TIME BEING?
I'M NOT YOUR OLDER BROTHER.
SO...
DAM-MIT...
I'M JUST A BIT OLDER...
NO MATTER HOW YOU LOOK AT IT, I'M DEFINITELY THE YOUNGER BROTHER.
I DID SAY I'LL HELP YOU,
BUT I ALSO SAID IT DEPENDS ON OUR NEGOTIATION.
OH WELL.
IT SEEMS SAWAMURA DIDN'T WANT TO NEGOTIATE
シャラ!
KA-CHING..

STOP BEING A SHOW OFF!
HEY, KOU-SUKE!
THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO!
CHARLOTTE IS STRONGER THAN ME!
IT'S A ROUNDABOUT WAY BUT YOU CAN EASILY GET UP FROM THERE.
THERE'S A DOCK OVER THERE
TCH
UNTIL THEN I'LL DO WHAT I CAN SO HURRY UP.
I ALREADY KNOW THAT SO BACK ME UP ONCE YOU GET UP FROM THERE.

ALL RIGHT!
I'LL BE THERE SOON SO DON'T DO ANYTHING RECKLESS!
GRAB
SPLASH
SPLASH
SPLASH..
HERE.
I'LL LET YOU HAVE IT
HOW

AND THAT WILL BE YOUR VICTORY
SHA
IF YOU WANT TO DEFEAT ME, YOU SHOULD THROW ME OFF THE BRIDGE
IF YOU DO SO, YOU WON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT ANYBODY ELSE NEARBY INTERFERING
CATCH
...WHAT ARE YOU PLANNING?
I CAN'T RELY ON RYOUKO'S HELP
IF SHE WERE HERE, SHE WOULD ONLY BE A NUISANCE SO I JUST DROVE HER AWAY
I CAME HERE WITH SEKIGUCHI IMARI, BUT SHE WON'T BE ABLE TO COME HERE FOR AWHILE
That damn Glasses!
WELL.. SHE'LL PROBABLY SETTLE DOWN IN A FEW MINUTES
...WHAT'S GOING ON?

CLANK
TOSS
WILL ANYTHING GOOD COME FROM THIS?
OR WILL THINGS JUST GET WORSE?
WHOOSH
NO CHEAP TRICKS.
LET'S GET STARTED.
VERY WELL.

KIRIE-CHAN.
KIRIE-CHAN.
?
CAN YOU HELP ME PULL DOWN THE FASTENER?
MY HAND CAN'T REACH.
ZIP
OH.
LET'S END THIS.
WHOOSH

KIYOTAKA-SAMA,
Maybe I should kick him
DID YOU CALL ME OVER JUST FOR THIS KIND OF JOB?
THAT WAS JUST ONE OF THEM.
HEH.
CAN KOUSUKE-KUN DEFEAT CHARLOTTE?
EVEN RYOUKO-CHAN WAS AN UNSUCCESSFUL OPPONENT, RIGHT?
RYOUKO WAS FILLED WITH HESITATION AND HAD NO RESOLUTION.
CHARLOTTE CUT ALL HER TIES,
AND CAME HERE READY TO DIE FOR THE SAKE HER REVENGE.
IT WAS OBVIOUS THAT RYOUKO COULDN'T DEFEAT CHARLOTTE.

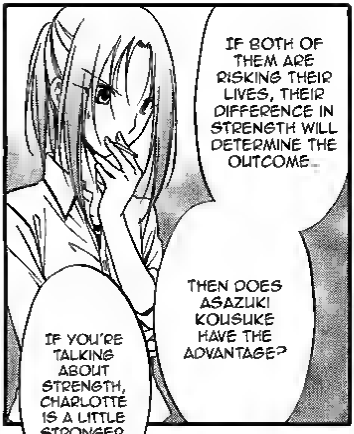
THEN DOESN'T THAT MEAN ASAZUKI KOUSUKE DOESN'T STAND A CHANCE EITHER?
FROM WHAT I'M HEARING, THE CURRENT CHARLOTTE ISN'T AFRAID OF DEATH.
ISN'T THAT SOME KIND OF MONSTER?
WELL, YOU SEE—
FROM THE VERY BEGINNING, SHE ALREADY LOST BECAUSE OF THAT.
AND SHE WAS EASILY KICKED AROUND BY CHARLOTTE.
THAT IS ASAZUKI'S STRONG POINT.
CLANG

I'M NOT GOING TO LET YOU USE THOSE FOREVER.
HEEN
CLANG
THESE NUNCHUNKS ARE ACTUALLY PRETTY USEFUL.
CLANG
TOSS
...YOU'RE
ABSOLUTELY RIGHT!!
VIGOROUS MOTION
TCH
THAT'S RIGHT, COME AT ME!
RULL
THEN I'LL...!

SMACK
CRACK
SMILE
BAM

WHEN ASAZUKI IS SERIOUS, HE DOESN'T WORRY ABOUT HIMSELF AT ALL.
PAIN, DEATH,
AND EVEN HIS OWN SURVIVAL... HE DISREGARDS THEM.
HE'S ALWAYS RISKING HIS LIFE WHEN HE'S SERIOUS.
ASAZUKI AT HIS LAST MOMENTS IS STRONG.
HE WON'T BE DEFEATED BY CHARLOTTE.
STAGGER.
KA-CHING
UGH...
GUH...

URGH
THROW
KA-CHING
DID YOU THINK I WOULD BE DEFEATED FROM THAT KIND OF ATTACK
I'LL DEFEAT YOU.
STEP
GRIP
YOU REALLY SEEM LIKE THE MOST TROUBLE-SOME ONE


IF BOTH OF THEM ARE RISKING THEIR LIVES, THEIR DIFFERENCE IN STRENGTH WILL DETERMINE THE OUTCOME.
THEN DOES ASAZUKI KOUSUKE HAVE THE ADVANTAGE?
IF YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT STRENGTH, CHARLOTTE IS A LITTLE STRONGER

CHARLOTTE HAS A BETTER PHYSIQUE,
AND KOU-SUKE-KUN'S ATTACKS ARE SLOPPY

SINCE I HAVE NOTHING BUT REVENGE.

HMM

WHACK
I THINK HE HAS THE DISADVANTAGE IF THEY WERE TO FIGHT IN THE SAME CONDITION.

IF THEY FOUGHT DURING THEIR FIRST MEETING, CHARLOTTE WOULD PROBABLY WIN.
BUT THE REALITY IS,
CHARLOTTE GOT TO KNOW ASAZUKI AND RYOUKO WELL.
ASAZUKI ISN'T THE TYPE TO SUDDENLY BECOME SERIOUS WHEN HIS OPPONENT IS A GIRL
AND CHARLOTTE WON'T GO EASY ON ANYONE WHO GETS IN THE WAY OF HER REVENGE
IF SHE KILLS ASAZUKI,
CHARLOTTE IS DOING EVERYTHING TO AVENGE FOR THE MURDER OF HER "OLDER SISTER".
DOES SHE THINK SHE WILL INFLICT RYOUKO WITH THE SAME PAIN THAT SHE HERSELF FELT?
BUT CAN SHE TEAR APART ASAZUKI AND RYOUKO WHO HAVE A SIMILAR RELATIONSHIP?
SWOOSH..
SLIDE

PUNCH
CHARLOTTE SHOWED HESITATION TOWARD ASAZUKI'S ATTACK.
HE'S DIFFICULT TO BRING DOWN, HE WON'T RETREAT,
AND YOU CAN'T TELL WHAT HE'S GOING TO DO NEXT.
CHARLOTTE WILL BE CONSIDERABLY OVERWHELMED BY HIM.
KILLING AND DEFEATING SUCH AN OPPONENT IS NOT EASY
AND ASAZUKI IS RISKING HIS LIFE
CLAP

IS THAT WHY YOU HAD KOUSUKE AND THE OTHERS COME IN CONTACT WITH CHARLOTTE FROM THE VERY BEGINNING?
HEH.
THAT WAS PART OF MY CALCULATIONS TOO.
...PERHAPS.
...IF SHE IS HESITATING, WHAT WILL ASAZUKI KOUSUKE DO?
HE TOO DOESN'T WANT TO KILL CHARLOTTE, RIGHT?
THEIR CONDITION IS STILL THE SAME
IF SO, THEN ISN'T ASAZUKI KOUSUKE THE ONE AT A DISADVANTAGE?
CERTAINLY
BUT UNDER THOSE CONDITIONS, WITHOUT A TRUMP CARD FROM EITHER SIDE, THE FIGHT WILL BE PROLONGED

IS THERE ANY MEANING IN WINNING AGAINST ASAZUKI?
HA
HA
FOR WHAT PURPOSE IS ASAZUKI FIGHTING FOR?
IF THAT HAPPENS, CHARLOTTE STILL CAN'T LOOK AWAY
WITH THAT, THE MATCH WILL BE DECIDED.

CRASH
STOMP
CLANG
KUU
WHY ARE YOU PUSHING YOURSELF?
FIVE OR SIX BONES ARE DEFINITELY BROKEN.
WOULDN'T YOU HAVE NORMALLY BEEN DEFEATED A LONG TIME AGO?

CRUMPLE
I WASN'T GOING TO BEAT YOU IN STYLE.
..A FEW BONES IS NOTHING.
DID I FORGET TO SAY THAT?
...WHY?
WHY ARE YOU GETTING IN MY WAY!?
THE TRIGGER HAS ALREADY BEEN SWITCHED...
ALL I HAVE LEFT IS REVENGE...!
JUST LEAVE ME ALONE!!
DASH

WHAT DOES THE MIKANAGI FILE MEAN TO YOU!?
THERE'S NO WAY TO SAVE THE BLADE CHILDREN!
WHAT'S WRONG ABOUT PERISHING ALONG WITH THE WORLD!?
I DON'T CARE WHAT HAPPENS TO THE MIKANAGI FILE!
YES, THAT'S RIGHT!
EVEN IF YOU DIE, THE WORLD WILL STILL FALL TO RUINS!!
JUMP
SWOOSH

SWISH..
CLANG
TSK
CLENCH
IF YOU KNOW THAT, THEN WHY ARE YOU STILL STANDING?
JUST ADMIT DEFEAT ALREADY...
grit
grit
AREN'T YOU FINE AS LONG AS RYOUKO-SAN IS SAFE!?

ALL YOU'VE BEEN SAYING IS RYOUKO THIS AND RYOUKO THAT
YEAH-!
I'M STANDING UP FOR RYOUKO!
EVEN YOU SAID SO BEFORE!
THAT I HAVE TO PROTECT HER!
THAT'S WHY I'M NOT GOING TO LET YOU DEFEAT ME!!
"CHAR-LOTTE!"

"ONEE-CHAN WILL DEFINITELY PROTECT YOU!"
IT'S THE SAME
YOUR FATE IS JUST LIKE OF ME AND RYOUKO...!
YOU'LL WATCH OUR HEARTS AND SOULS CRUMBLE
RIGHT BEFORE YOUR EYES,
CHAR-LOTTE
EVEN AFTER YOU CARRY OUT YOUR REVENGE, YOU WON'T BE AT EASE
WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT HOW WE'LL BECOME LIKE YOU
WON'T YOU STILL BE IN THIS CURSED STATE?
YOU CAN'T DO IT, CAN YOU?
"I COULDN'T PROTECT YOU."

"I COULDN'T PROTECT WHAT WAS MOST IMPORTANT TO ME."
QUIT TALKING ABOUT REVENGE
I DON'T CARE IF YOU DIE WITH THE MIKANAGI FILE
AT LEAST UNTIL THE VERY END, WE SHOULD BE THINKING "HEY, LET'S TRY TO DO OUR BEST"
TREMBLE
AT LEAST MAKE SURE TO TELL THAT TO RYOUKO.
—AH

I WAS AFRAID IT WOULD BECOME LIKE THIS.
I COULD ONLY AVERT MY EYES TO PREVENT MY HEART FROM BEING SHAKEN.
I THOUGHT SUCH A THING WOULDN'T HAPPEN.
"DON'T UNDERESTIMATE ONEE-CHAN!"
"I'LL DEFINITELY PROTECT YOU!"
HE'S THE SAME AS YUKINE-CHAN
HE'S FOOLISHLY BLIND TO HIS OWN DANGER AND PROTECTS EVERYONE BUT HIMSELF.

HE'LL SACRIFICE HIMSELF—
..YOU
IF IT'S FOR THAT PURPOSE, YOU CAN BECOME STRONG AS YOU WANT
YOU ARE A BLADE CHILDREN,
SO YOU'VE LIKELY COMMITTED COUNTLESS SINS..
IF I DEFEAT SUCH AN OPPO-NENT...I
I—...
EVEN THOUGH I'M USELESS,
SO,
AS LONG AS RIO IS THERE, OR SOMEONE SMART LIKE HER
I'LL LEND THEM A HAND.
THINKING ABOUT HOW TO LIVE PROPERLY
AND ACCEPTING DEATH

...I'LL LEAVE IT TO YOU.
ISN'T THIS THE SAME AS KILLING YUKINE-CHAN...?
SIGH

STAB
PAT
SPLASH

COUGH
COUGH
COUGH
...IF ONLY YOU WERE SMARTER...

IF ONLY YOU THOUGHT MORE ABOUT YOURSELF
YOU WOULD HAVE BEEN EASILY DEFEATED LIKE SAWAMURA AND RYOUKO-SAN
IF YOU TRIED TO SAVE ME LIKE THOSE TWO...
...NO.
IF ONLY I WAS STRONGER, SUCH A THING WOULDN'T—
THEN BECOME STRONGER.

SO THAT AMANAE YUKINE DOESN'T HAVE TO PROTECT YOU.
YOU'RE WEAK AND FRAGILE.
SO SHE COULDN'T LEAVE YOU ALONE.

EVEN FOR ME, IF RYOUKO WASN'T A BLADE CHILDREN,
I WOULD BECOME EVEN STRONGER
I'M JUST STUPID LIKE THAT
—YOU'RE RIGHT
BECAUSE I'M WEAK, I STAYED NEXT TO YUKINE-CHAN
BECAUSE I'M WEAK, I LOVED THE STRONG YUKINE-CHAN
BECAUSE I'M WEAK, I AM CLINGING ON TO MEMORIES OF YUKINE-CHAN

...UNTIL I CAN BECOME FREE FROM THAT,
THERE'S NOTHING ELSE I WANT.

...IT LOOKS LIKE
FALLS
I WASN'T ABLE TO DEFEAT KOUSUKE-KUN.
THUD..

-YUKINE-CHAN.

[əláiv]

SPIRAL ALIVE
White Cloud Scans
Translator/Editor
Yumina
Redrawers
Xefielle
Raws

Chapter 26
Open Sesame

...IT SEEMS ASADZUKI KOUSUKE HAS WON AGAINST CHARLOTTE.
IS HE GOING TO GET THE MIKANAGI FILE NOW?
THAT ISN'T THE IMPORTANT PART, IS IT?
YES.
THAT'S HOW IT OPENS
CHARLOTTE'S DOOR THAT KEEPS THE FILE LOCKED UP.
mangapanda

HEY!
CAN YOU HEAR ME?
HEY,
CHAR-LOTTE.
.....
SO, WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO NOW?
...NO IDEA.
WHAT SHOULD I DO?

manga panda

I CAN'T LEAVE SAWAMURA JUST LYING THERE...
AND I HAVE TO EXPLAIN EVERY-THING TO RYOUKO...
...IS SHE GOING TO LECTURE ME TO STOP OVERDOING IT AGAIN?
IF YOU TELL HER YOUR HONEST FEELINGS, SHE'LL FORGIVE YOU.
DON'T ASK ME.
LIKE YOU TOLD ME JUST NOW.
...LIKE I CAN DO THAT...
IF YOU DON'T, YOU MIGHT END UP LIKE ME ONE DAY.

panda

...CAN WE THINK OF SOMETHING SO IT DOESN'T TURN OUT LIKE THAT EVEN IF I DON'T TELL?
...IT'S LIKE A SUGGESTION I'M MAKING
IS THAT SHEFFIELD DOWN ON HIS ASS OVER THERE?
I TOO HAVE A GRUDGE AGAINST HIM.
IF YOU GO FOR HONEST REVENGE, I'D GLADLY HELP YOU OUT.
REVENGE, HUH...
I FEEL LIKE I'VE HAD ENOUGH.

NOTHING GOOD WILL COME TO THIS MAN FROM NOW ON EITHER.
AND THAT'S FINE.
SERVES HIM RIGHT!
BESIDES, NO MATTER HOW MUCH I CURSE SOMETHING...
IT WON'T DO ME ANY GOOD.
...THEN WHAT
DID YOU WANT TO HAPPEN FOR YOURSELF?
mangapanda

mangapanda

I WONDER IF I EVEN THOUGHT ABOUT IT.
NO IDEA...
WHAT WOULD HAPPEN...
I COULDN'T PROTECT YUKINE-CHAN...
I COULDN'T THINK THAT BEING PROTECTED BY YUKINE-CHAN WAS ALL THE VALUE THERE WAS...
I WANTED TO KNOW THE REASON FOR WHY I SURVIVED...
I COMMITTED NUMEROUS CRIMES...
AS A BLADE CHILD...

BUT I LIVED WELL AND DIED HAVING ACCEPTED IT.
...AT LEAST MAKE ME THINK THAT
WHAT CAN I POSSIBLY DO NOW...?
"EVEN IF THERE IS SALVATION FOR BLADE CHILDREN, THE MOMENT SOMEONE FINDS IT
WILL IT EVEN REACH THOSE CHILDREN?"
ALL IN TATTERS...
WITH THE SWITCH FLIPPED.
CAN SOMEONE LIKE ME EVEN PROTECT SOMETHING?
THERE IS NO WAY THAT THERE IS SALVATION
crunchyroll

mangapanda

YEAH.
BUT...
...SOMETHING I CAN PROTECT...
EVEN IF IT'S WHAT NARUMI KIYOTAKA WANTS...
FINE...
IF THERE'S A POSSIBILITY OF SURPASSING THAT...
KOUSUKE-KUN...

WHAT?
...AND STOP ADDRESSING ME LIKE THAT.
WHAT'S WRONG WITH THAT?
BLADE CHILDREN OF THE "MIKANAGI FILE"
ANYWAY...
DATA ON THE REMAINING SIX OF THEM
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
DO YOU HAVE CONFIDENCE IN YOUR MEMORY?
I'LL RECITE IT NOW.
IT'S ONE THOSAND EIGHTEN CHARACTERS.
CAN YOU REMEMBER THEM ALL AT ONCE?
...WHAT'S THE POINT OF MAKING ME MEMORIZE IT?
...THE MIKANAGI FILE MAY DECIDE THE WORLD'S FUTURE.

ALL ALONE BEARING THIS BURDEN ON MY BACK...
DO YOU THINK I COULD GO TO A WONDERFUL PLACE?
UNLESS SOMEONE SHARES THAT BURDEN...
YOU COULD EASILY...
CRUMBLE.

I AM KIYOTAKA'S UNDERLING...
WHAT IF I TELL EVERYTHING TO HIM?
IF YOU THINK IT'S NECESSARY, I DON'T MIND.

BECAUSE I'M SURE YOU WOULD DO IT ONLY SO YOU COULD...
PROTECT THE CHILDREN OR SOMEONE ELSE PRECIOUS
UNLIKE ME, YOU WOULDN'T USE IT TO CURSE SOMETHING.
BECAUSE YOU'RE STRONG.
.....
THAT'S WHY I WOULD FEEL AT EASE.
IF NOT SAWAMURA, NOT RYOUKO-SAN, BUT YOU CARRY THIS...
...SAY IT.

WHAT ARE THEY TALKING ABOUT...?
...WHAT HAPPENED?

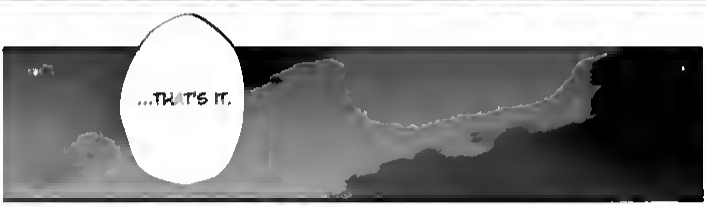
I'LL MEMORIZE THE FIRST TIME

HUH?
I...

!!

mangapanda

mapanda


...THAT'S IT.

DO YOU WANT ME TO REPEAT IT?
OF COURSE.
WERE YOU ABLE TO MEMO-RIZE IT?
THIS IS THE DATA ON ALL SIX.

mangapanda

IT'S OKAY.
I KNOW THAT YOU CAN BE RELIED ON.
THAT YOU'RE NOT JUST A SIMPLE IDIOT.
SO YOU STILL TREAT ME LIKE AN IDIOT...
BUT TRYING TO NEVER FORGET THIS...
WILL BE PRETTY SEVERE PRESSURE.
YES, NEVER FORGET!
ONLY YOU CAN PROTECT THE FILE'S CHILDREN.
SOON, YOU WILL BE THE ONLY ONE IN THE WORLD...
WHO WILL REMEMBER THE MIKANAGI FILE.

mangapanda

WHA...
MY HEART IS ABOUT TO STOP...
WHAT DID YOU SAY?
I'VE FELT IT COMING FOR A LONG TIME.
...YOU ARE AN IDIOT AFTER ALL...

WHAT KEPT ME ALIVE...
THESE PAST NINE YEARS WERE REVENGE AND THE MIKANAGI FILE...
ONCE I'M RELEASED FROM ALL THAT, IT ISN'T STRANGE FOR MY HEART TO STOP BEATING EVEN WITHOUT ME DOING ANYTHING.
MY MIND AND MY BODY...
HAVE BEEN SCREAMING FOR A LONG TIME...
THEY PROBABLY NEED TO REST...
HEY! CHAR-LOTTE!
THIS IS TOO SUDDEN!
EVEN IF I KEEP ON LIVING, THE SWITCH WILL ONLY FLIP BEFORE LONG...
AND THEN I WILL DIE, NOT FOR REVENGE AND NOT BECAUSE OF A CURSE.
mangapanda

IN THAT CASE...
THERE'S NOTHING ELSE I CAN DO, IS THERE?
CHA...
AMA-NAE!
...SAWA-MURA?

AH...
I'M OKAY.
I'M GLAD IT'S LIKE THIS...
I'M SURE I'VE BEEN SAVED.
PASSING ON IN THIS MOOD...
PRAYING FOR SOMEONE'S FUTURE...

mangapanda

mangapanda

IF YOU WANT TO HATE SOMEONE, HATE ME.
I'M THE ONE WHO LET CHARLOTTE DIE
BUT THE ONE WHO SAVED HER WAS YOU.
AMANAE WAS SAVED.
THAT'S WHAT SHE SAID.
...AMANAE WAS...
SAVED BY HOW IT TURNED OUT.
...SO THEN I...
SHE SMILED WARMLY...
WAS MISTAKEN ALL THIS TIME...?

I WAS MISTAKEN IN NOT WANTING TO LET AMANAE DIE!?
...LET'S STOP...
TALKING LIKE THAT.

mangapanda

...SO THEN YOU...
WERE ABLE TO DO WHAT YOU NEEDED TO?
NO.
IT'S JUST THAT IT DIDN'T RESULT IN THE WORST OUTCOME.
IT'S NOT LIKE I REALLY SAVED CHARLOTTE.
THERE'S NOTHING ELSE THAT CAN BE DONE.
I HAVE TO...

mangapanda

BECOME STRONGER...
VRRRRM.

mangapanda

OH MY, GENTLE-MEN!
WHAT A COINCIDENCE, MEETING IN A PLACE LIKE THIS!
ピカ
KIYO...
TAKA...!

mangapanda

THAT'S ONE OF THE THINGS...
BUT IT ISN'T MY FIRST OBJECTIVE.
KEH!
WHAT DID YOU COME HERE FOR?
TO CLEAN UP SHEFFIELD?
ASADZUKI!
I EXPECT CHARLOTTE ENTRUSTED THE MIKANAGI FILE TO YOU.
I'D LIKE YOU TO HAND IT OVER.

...I WAS ENTRUSTED WITH THE FILE?
HOW CAN YOU BE SO CONFIDENT CLAIMING THAT?
BECAUSE I SET IT UP SO IT WOULD TURN OUT THAT WAY.
...ONE OF THE BLADE CHILDREN...
...AND POSSESSING THE SPIRIT OF AMANAE YUKINE...

AND JUST LIKE YUKINE, HAVING A LITTLE SISTER..
SOMEONE WHO, EVEN IF HE DOESN'T BELIEVE IN SALVATION, HAS SOMEONE HE WANTS TO PROTECT..
CHARLOTTE WOULD SURELY BE PERTURBED BY THAT KIND OF A PERSON...
AND IF BY ENTRUSTING THE FILE TO THAT PERSON SHE WOULD BE ABLE TO PROTECT THE SAME THING AS YUKINE.
EVEN IF SHE FELT THE ARTIFICIALITY OF THE SITUATION, SHE WOULD STILL CHOOSE TO ENTRUST YOU THE FILE.
ESPECIALLY IF SHE KNEW THAT THAT PERSON DIDN'T HAVE ANY WARM FEELINGS FOR ME.
SHE'D PROBABLY GAMBLE ON THE POSSIBILITY THAT I COULD BE OUTWITTED.

...WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

KIYOTAKA-SAMA'S TARGET FROM THE START WAS THE MIKANAGI FILE.

FOR THAT PURPOSE, HE PSYCHO-LOGICALLY JOLTED CHARLOTTE AND CORNERED HER...
HE EVEN GAVE HER THE REASON TO LEAVE THE FILE BEHIND.

THAT'S WHAT I AIMED FOR...
I CAL-CULATED EVERY-THING...
AND PUT ON A PERFORMANCE.

mangapanda

AND FINALLY, HE SENT SOMEONE FIT TO BE ENTRUSTED WITH THE FILE.
THIS, ASADZUKI KOUSUKE...
THE FILE IS CURRENTLY...
IN YOUR POSSESSION.
HAND IT OVER.
...IT'S TOO BAD...

mangapanda

HEY, HEY...
KIYO-TAKA...

EVEN IF SHE LEFT THE FILE WITH ME, THERE'S NOTHING TO WRITE IT DOWN WITH HERE?
ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY I MEMO-RIZED THE WHOLE FILE IN SUCH A SHORT TIME?

THAT WOULD BE IMPOS-SIBLE.
ASAD-ZUKI.

I COULDN'T HAVE MADE A MISTAKE
I'M NOT BUYING IT.
SHE DIED WITHOUT LEAVING ANYTHING.

BECAUSE IT IS POSSIBLE, I ARRANGED FOR YOU TO BE HERE TO RECEIVE THE FILE.
QUIT YOUR USELESS RESISTANCE.

...DON'T THREATEN ME.

I MIGHT FORGET WHAT I JUST MEMORIZED OUT OF FEAR.
NO MATTER HOW YOU TRY, YOU CAN'T TALK YOUR WAY AROUND KIYOTAKA!
U-RA-RA-RA-RA-RA-RA-RA-RA-RA

カチ
ドサッ!!
mangapanda

mangapanda

I WON'T LET YOU DO AS YOU PLEASE WHILE LEAVING ME OUT!
I WON'T LET YOU DO AS YOU PLEASE!
mangapanda

スパイラル・アライヴ
[əláiv]

Chapter 27
Alive

mangapanda

I WON'T LET YOU DO AS YOU PLEASE WHILE LEAVING ME OUT!
I WON'T LET YOU!!
HE ..
HEY.
HM?
mangapanda

WHAT THE HECK ARE YOU SAYING, JUST LOOK AT THE SITUATION AND-
SHUT UP, FOUR-EYES!
YOU HAD QUITE SOME NERVE TO TIE ME TO A TREE!!
EVEN THOUGH I WAS ABLE TO PULL MYSELF FREE, YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW HARD THAT WAS!
I APOLOGISE FOR THAT BUT RIGHT NOW IS NOT...
AH, YES, AMANAE!!
...YOU...
THAT'S A GOOD IMPRESSION OF SOMEONE DEAD YOU ARE MAKING...

ぎゅっ
YOU HAVE CHOSEN YOUR POSTURE REEEALY WELL!
ずん
ずん
ER, LOOK..
LISTEN, SAWA-MURA!
TREATING A GIRL WHO ONLY DOES AS SHE PLEASES AFFECTION-ATELY JUST WON'T DO!
COME ON, AMANAE!
COME BACK!
I AM NOT GOING TO LET YOU DIE IN SUCH A PRETTY WAY!!
CUT THE CRAP, RETARD!

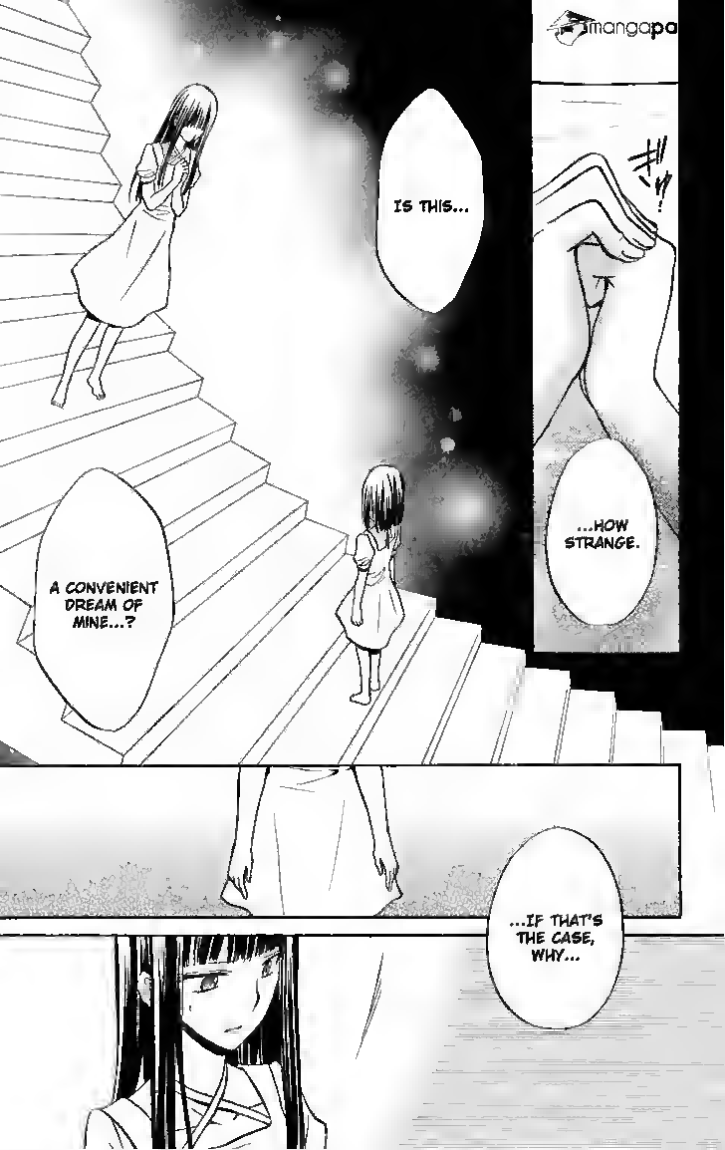
...I WONDER WHETHER THERE IS A HELL AT THE END OF THIS STAIRCASE...
WHETHER MY HELL WILL BE TO KEEP GOING DOWN IT FOR ETERNITY.
TURN AROUND ON THE ROAD TO HADES RIGHT NOW!!

YUKI...
NE...
CHAN...?
LISTEN,
CHARLOTTE!
IT IS STILL TOO EARLY FOR YOU TO COME HERE!
BUT, YUKINE-CHAN...

mangapanda

I HAVE ALREADY...
TOO EARLY, TOO EARLY!
DON'T YOU HAVE ANY REGRETS BACK THERE?
LISTEN,
AREN'T YOU WORRIED ABOUT THE OUTCOME OF THE FIGHT BETWEEN THAT FOUR-EYES AND THE ANTEATER AND SO ON?
SO, WHAT ABOUT THE ANTEATER!?
I THINK THAT IS A STUPID REASON, THOUGH...
I AM WORRIED ABOUT THAT!
GO BACK AND ASK HIM!!
B-BUT...
EVEN IF I GO BACK THERE, HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO ..?
...ARE YOU SURE?

ARE YOU SURE THAT YOU HAVE NO REGRETS?
IF,
IF I CAN SAY THAT,
LISTEN.
AND DIE LIKE THIS, I CAN TELL THAT IMARI-SAN WILL BE VERY BITTER..
WE HAVE NO BUSINESS DYING WHEN THERE ARE PEOPLE WHOM WE DON'T WANT TO MAKE BITTER
うん
うん
mangapanda


mangapa
IS THIS...
...HOW STRANGE.
A CONVENIENT DREAM OF MINE...?
...IF THAT'S THE CASE, WHY...

mangapanda

IN OTHER WORDS, IS IT PERHAPS THAT YOU DON'T WANT TO DIE JUST YET?
SO,
YEAH... OF COURSE THIS IS A DREAM...
BEING HERE IS REALLY WHAT I WISH .?
GO BACK.
BECAUSE "YUKINE-CHAN" IS ALWAYS RIGHT.

AM I WRONG?
YEAH.
YOU ARE RIGHT.
THAT'S HOW IT IS.

ALL RIGHT, IT IS BEATING!
SHE IS BACK!

Ba-dump
HMPH ...

mangapanda

...IT'S TRUE.
N-NO WAY...!
AMANAE WAS DEFINITELY...
Ba dump
Ba dump
!
IT'S BEAT-ING...
SHE'S ALIVE...!

mangapanda

ONCE AGAIN, IT'S YOUR TURN TO REFLECT ON WHO, AMANAE OR I, IS MORE SUITABLE TO BE YOUR GIRLFRIEND!
SAWA-MURA, THAT MEANS!
WHAT A SHAME, AMANAE,
WERE YOU TRYING TO ESCAPE AFTER DISRUPTING PEOPLE'S LOVE AFFAIRS?
NO,
THERE'S NO NEED FOR THAT.
SOMEONE WHO DISCARDS YOU SO LIGHTLY WILL BE NO GOOD FOR YOU, SAWAMURA!!

O-
OO-
OO-
OH!
UGH...
HE-
HEY
NAO,
IS THAT OKAY!?
ISN'T THIS BAD!!?
W-WHY DO YOU ASK ME, I DON'T KNOW!
HMM.
SEEMS EVERY-THING WENT WELL.

DIDN'T YOU FALL INTO THE POND...?
NO,
MORE IMPORT-ANTLY,
YOU AREN'T GOING TO SAY THAT ALL OF THIS. . WENT ACCORDING TO YOUR PLAN, ARE YOU?
KIYO-TAKA...!
KI...
!
...LET ME SAY THIS FIRST,

mangapanda

mangapanda

ONLY A PERSON WHO UNDERSTANDS LOVE COULD HAVE BROUGHT THIS CASE TO ITS TRUE CONCLUSION.
THIS IS THE REAL ENDING!
HE'S LYING SO BLATANT-LY!!
WELL, MAKE MAY, MAKE WAY

...I HAVE BEEN COMPLETELY DEFEATED.
THERE IS NO FUTURE FOR ME ANY MORE.
INCIDENTALLY, IS THERE ANYTHING YOU WISH FOR?
THANKS TO YOU, EVERYTHING WENT WELL.
WHAT AM I TO DO NOW?
YOU WILL OBLIGE US TO PONDER YOUR PROSPECTS YOURSELF.
AND THAT IS YOUR PUNISHMENT.

SAWA-MURA.
AFTER SHE HAS BEEN TAKEN TO A HOSPITAL, GIVE ME A CALL.
EVEN THOUGH SHE HAS COME BACK TO LIFE, I AM NOT EXACTLY AT EASE, RIGHT?
A CAR IS WAITING AT THE ENTRANCE.
A ROOM HAS BEEN PREPARED FOR HER
...I OWE YOU,
MY GRATI-TUDE, SIR.
...SAWA-MURA,
WHAT DID YOU ACCOMPLISH BY RUSHING FORWARD WITHOUT THINKING?
mangapanda

WERE YOU ABLE TO SAVE ANYONE?
WERE YOU ABLE TO PROVE MY EXPECTATIONS WRONG?
...THUS,
NEXT TIME, THINK BEFORE MOVING.
THIS TIME AROUND,
YOU CAN STILL DO IT AGAIN AND MAKE IT WORK, CAN'T YOU?

mangapanda

mangapanda

...YES.
I'LL THINK,
AND I'LL KEEP ON THINKING,
WHETHER YOU ARE RIGHT OR NOT.
PLEASE KEEP AN EYE ON AMANE.
HMMMMM...

AS LONG AS AMANAE-KUN LIVES, YOU THINK YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO SEVER HER BOND TO SAWAMURA-KUN?
IS THIS OUTCOME GOING TO BE GOOD WHERE I AM CONCERNED?
フンフン
BUT IS IT EVEN POSSIBLE, TO SEVER THEIR BOND?
ピッ
THAT'S WHAT MAKES LOVE FUN.
AREN'T OBSTACLES AN INDISPENSABLE PART IN THE ROAD TO LOVE?
YES, YOUNG LADY!
TRIUMPH IS AT YOUR HAND!
..WHY DO I FEEL LIKE I AM BEING HOODWINKED..?
ISN'T IT GREAT?
BESIDES,
SURELY YOU HAVE NO ILL-WILL TOWARDS AMANAE-KUN, EITHER, DO YOU?
mangapanda

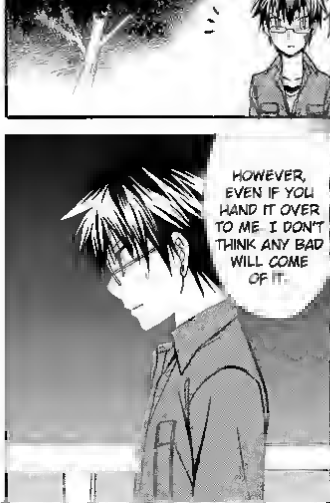
mangapanda

.....

WANTS TO HAVE FUN WITH YOU AGAIN.

HUH?
AMANAE-KUN, TOO,

ASADA-ZUKI,


HOWEVER, EVEN IF YOU HAND IT OVER TO ME, I DON'T THINK ANY BAD WILL COME OF IT.

I DON'T LIKE FORCING MY HAND ON MATTERS.
LET ME THINK FOR A BIT ABOUT HANDLING THE MIKANAGI FILE.

mangapanda

FROM MY OUTWARD APPEARANCE,
ONE WOULDN'T THINK I AM SCARY, WOULD THEY?
.....
YEAH.
I WONDER WHETHER SAWAMURA HAS ALREADY CALLED THE CAR.
Blam!

mangapanda

AND YET, I HAVE NO BROKEN BONES.
IT SEEMS I HAD LOTS OF CRACKS, THOUGH.
...YOU'RE LOOKING TERRIBLE.
...WELL THEN,
WHAT'S TO BE DONE ABOUT THAT FILE FROM BEFORE, I WONDER...
...THE MIKANAGI FILE,
AS I THOUGHT, YOU...?

mangapanda

I REMEMBER IT.
YEAH.
IF WE AREN'T CAREFUL ABOUT THAT...
EVEN IF YOU SAY THAT, BECAUSE CHARLOTTE HASN'T REGAINED CONSCIOUSNESS YET,
I AM WORRIED ABOUT WHAT IS GONNA HAPPEN.
AREN'T THERE PEOPLE PLANNING TO LAY THEIR HANDS ON IT FOR THAT REASON, TOO?
BUT THIS MEANS THAT CHARLOTTE IS SOMEHOW ALIVE.
SEEMS IT IS BEING KEENLY TARGETED BY KIYOTAKA AND THOSE SCARY PEOPLE.
I WOULD BE LYING IF I SAID THERE ARE NOT GOING TO BE CONSEQUENCES.
IN ANY CASE, SHE WAS DEAD FOR A WHOLE HOUR.
I HAVE HEARD OF SIMILAR CASES IN WHICH YEARS PASS WITHOUT THE VICTIM AWAKING ..
YEAH...
DEPENDING ON HER STATE, SHE MIGHT NEVER WAKE UP.

Mangapanda

!
DOES THIS MEAN THAT, IF THINGS FOLLOW THIS COURSE, THERE'S NO DANGER TO CONSIDER OF THE SWITCH BEING ACTIVATED OVER THE YEARS?
IF SHE DOESN'T REGAIN CONSCIOUSNESS AS YEARS PASS, WE CAN HAVE HOPE OF DEVISING A STRATEGY TO DULL THE SWITCH IN THAT PERIOD.
COULD IT BE THAT KIYOTAKA READ THE SITUATION THAT FAR AHEAD AND FACTORED HER DYING ONCE INTO IT...?
IF IT'S SAWAMURA, HE WILL WAIT NO MATTER HOW LONG FOR CHARLOTTE TO WAKE UP. IMARI SEKIGUCHI, TOO, WILL FIND A PRETEXT TO STAY WITH HIM
EVEN IF, AFTER SEVERAL YEARS, CHARLOTTE WAKES UP,
IF SOMEONE IS BY HER SIDE, IT WON'T BE THE END...

mangapanda

...NO WAY, RIGHT?
EVEN HE WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO PLAN THAT MUCH...
YEAH.
HE CAN'T BE TRUSTED.
CAN I HAND HIM THE FILE JUST LIKE THAT?
WE'VE COMPLETED THE FIRST STAGE, BUT...
AS I THOUGHT, THINGS WILL BE TOUGH FROM NOW ON, TOO.
I'M HOME.

AH,
WELCOME HOME
NOT GOOD, BRINGING WORK HOME.
WELL, SINCE MR INSPECTOR DOESN'T DO HIS WORK DILIGENTLY, HE ENDS UP PUSHING IT ONTO ME.
OH,
..THESE SWEETS ARE DELICIOUS.
WHERE DID THEY COME FROM?
THEY WERE SENT TO US, BY AYUMU-SAN.
TO APOLOGISE FOR ALWAYS GIVING HIS BIG BROTHER TROUBLE.
AYUMU?
EVEN AT OUR PARENTS' HOME, HE IS QUITE UN-PLEASANT..

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AM I A WORTHLESS BIG BROTHER WHO IS TAKEN CARE OF BY HIS MIDDLE-SCHOOLER LITTLE BROTHER?
AT LEAST THAT'S WHAT IT SEEMS LIKE, ISN'T IT?
I'LL GO, AND MAKE SOME TEA.
YOU TAKE A SEAT.
カリ
AYUMU IS JUST AS USUAL...
WELL,
HE IS NOT ONE TO CHANGE, BUT
NOW, THEN.

NOW THAT THE ISSUE WITH THE FILE IS SORTED OUT FOR THE TIME BEING,
SHALL WE MOVE TO THE NEXT STAGE WITHOUT FURTHER ADO,
AYUMU?

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SPIRAL ALIVE

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Chapter 28
Beginning, Beginning

SPIRAL ALIVE

WHAT ARE THEY GOING TO HAVE ME DO NOW?
ARE THEY GOING TO PARTNER ME WITH KANON AGAIN?
WELL, IT WILL BE MORE PLEASANT THAN WITH RYOUKO, BUT.
THAT'S A SULLEN FACE YOU ARE MAKING.
SO YOU CAME TO GREET ME IN PERSON, RUTHERFORD.
...YOU LOOK QUITE TIRED.
I HEARD SOMETHING HAPPENED TO YOUR CHILDHOOD FRIEND.
SHUT UP.

HEY.
...SO IN THE END, IT WAS A BITTER FAREWELL, IS THAT IT?
NOTHING I EVER DO PLEASES THAT GIRL.
...WHEN I SAID I WAS RETURNING,
SHE GAVE ME A FLYING KICK WHILE SAYING "YOU CAN GO ANY-WHERE FOR ALL I CARE!"
And didn't come to see me off
"IF YOU EXPRESS YOUR FEELINGS HONESTLY, YOU WILL BE FORGIVEN."
...HONEST FEELINGS, YEAH, RIGHT.

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...THAT FELLOW, KOU-
IN THE SUKE, END, HE VANISHED WITHOUT SAYING A WORD!
WHY DOESN'T HE UNDERSTAND MY FEELINGS!?

AT THIS POINT, EVEN IF I EXPRESSED THEM, SHE WOULD NOT BELIEVE ME.

"YOU DIDN'T SAY WHAT YOU WANTED TO SAY TO HIM, EITHER, DID YOU?"
.....

...IF I HAD BEEN THE FIRST TO SPEAK...
THAT..
AT THIS POINT, IT WOULD BE EMBARRASSING...
EXCUSE ME, RYOUKO-SAN.
HM? WHAT IS IT?
ER..
A LITTLE GIRL WHO LOOKS AS IF SHE IS IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AND SAYS SHE IS YOUR OLDER SISTER HAS COME TO SEE YOU, BUT...
ひょこっ
IT'S BEEN A WHILE, RYOUKO-CHAN.
.....!
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COME WITH ME FOR A SEC!
WHAT BUSINESS BROUGHT YOU TO THE SCHOOL!?
I HAVE BEEN BUSY WITH OTHER THINGS, TOO
SINCE AMANAE'S CASE, I HAVE BEEN KEEPING A LOW PROFILE, AND YET ..!
...KH!
MORE IMPORTANTLY, KOUSUKE-KUN HAS RETURNED TO BRITAIN, BUT...
HAVE YOU SEEN HIM OFF PROPERLY?

SO YOU QUARRELLED IN THE END, DIDN'T YOU?
EVEN THOUGH YOU DON'T KNOW WHETHER YOU WILL BE ABLE TO MEET AGAIN. I WONDER HOW YOU ARE FEELING ABOUT THAT.
IF YOU HAVE ANY CONCERNS,
YOU KNOW IT'S NOT A PROBLEM TO GO BACK TO JAPAN, RIGHT?
ARE YOU THAT CONCERNED ABOUT RYOUKO?
...I WASN'T ASKING SPECIFICALLY ABOUT RYOUKO, YOU KNOW.
UUUU

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.WELL,
IS THE JOB IN JAPAN FINISHED FOR GOOD?
IT'S PROBABLY MOVING TOWARDS A SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION.

THE MOON HAS CHANGED, AND SHE STILL SHOWS NO SIGN OF WAKING UP.

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WHAT SHE IS DREAMING OF, I WONDER..
SHE WILL WAKE UP WHEN IT'S TIME TO WAKE UP. THAT'S ALL.
TOMOR-ROW,
OR IN A YEAR,
OR IT MIGHT BE MUCH LATER.

.....
HEY, INARI.
HOW COME YUKINE AMANAE, WHO IS BEHIND SERIAL MURDERS, IS IN AN ORDINARY HOSPITAL?
EVEN IF SHE IS ASLEEP, ISN'T IT TOO UN-RESTRICTED?
...NO,

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...WELL,
THEN WHO IS THIS?
THIS ONE IS AMANAE, BUT NOT YUKINE AMANAE.
BESIDES, THE REAL AMANAE IS ALREADY DEAD.
?
?
YUKINE AMANAE'S YOUNGER SISTER.
IT'S CHAR-LOTTE.
ISN'T IT OKAY, EVEN IF SHE IS UNRESTRAINED?
WHILE SHE IS ASLEEP,
BESIDES, THE CASE IS CLOSED.

AMANAE.
BUT I'LL GIVE YOU MY FULL PAYBACK FOR ALL THE TROUBLE YOU HAVE CAUSED,
IT'S GOOD THAT SHE IS SLEEPING PEACEFULLY NOW.
.....?
...THANKS TO YOUR BEING THERE,
SHE WAS SAVED...
ARE YOU SLEEPING OVER!?
I KNOW, RIGHT!?
THEN, HOW ABOUT OUR GOING ON A DATE AS THANKS!?

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...ALL ENDED WELL, BUT...
I WAS UNABLE TO FIND AN ANSWER TO THE BLADE CHILDREN PROBLEM
I WAS ABLE TO BUY SOME TIME, THOUGH
BESIDES, I STILL HAVE TO DEAL WITH THE TROUBLE OF PROTECTING THE MIKANAGI FILE.
...I'M SORRY, CHARLOTTE.
EITHER WAY,
I'D BE JUST A BURDEN EVEN IF I STAYED NEXT TO RYOUKO...

HOW ABOUT IT, RYOUKO-CHAN?
CAN'T WE BECOME ALLIES?

IF WE DO, WE WILL ALSO BE ABLE TO ACT TOGETHER WITH KOU-SUKE-KUN.

TO THAT END, SOME PRACTICE AS SUITS THE CIRCUMSTANCES WILL BE NECES-SARY, BUT THAT SHOULDN'T BE A PROBLEM.
ARE YOU TELLING ME TO COOPERATE WITH KIYO-TAKA'S SHADY PLAN?
IT ALSO TOOK A MONTH FOR KOUSUKE-KUN TO DO IT.

STILL,
ONE DAY...

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CUT THE CRAP.
IF YOU COME OVER TO OUR SIDE, IT WILL BECOME DIFFICULT FOR KIYOTAKA-SAMA TO USE YOU AS A BARGAINING TOOL TO STRIKE A DEAL WITH KOUSUKE-KUN
ESPECIALLY NOW,
HE WILL USE YOU TO OBTAIN THE MIKANAGI FILE FROM KOUSUKE-KUN
...THE MIKANAGI FILE?
CERTAINLY, THAT'S WHERE I BECOME KOUSUKE'S WEAKNESS.
YOU ARE NOT GOING TO USE ME AS A PRETEXT.
HOWEVER,
HASN'T KIYOTAKA ALREADY LAID HIS HANDS ON THE FILE?
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.....
KIYOTAKA IS ACTING UNUSUAL.
HIS PLAN SEEMED TO BE FOR KOUSUKE TO ENTRUST THE FILE TO HIM.
I WAS ABLE TO READ HIS ACTIONS UNDER THIS LIGHT UP TO THE MOMENT IT HAPPENED, AND YET...
IN THE END, HE THREATENED HIM INTO BRINGING OUT THE FILE., HE CHOSE SUCH AN UNCLEAN COURSE OF ACTION, BUT...
IF IT'S THAT FELLOW, HE HAD SIMPLER SCHEMES TO OBTAIN IT.
FOR EXAMPLE, HE COULD HAVE PLANTED A LISTENING DEVICE ONTO KOUSUKE'S BODY IN ADVANCE.
THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN A SURE-FIRE, SIMPLE TRICK TO PULL.
IF IT'S KIYOTAKA, HE TOUCHED KOUSUKE RIGHT BEFORE HE CAME TO THE POND,
HE COULD HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT RAISING ANY SUSPICION.
AND THEN, HE ALSO HAD A CHANCE TO RETRIEVE IT IN SECRECY.

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...PROBABLY,
HE HEARD THE MIKANAGI FILE FROM A LISTENING DEVICE
...IT'S AS YOU SAY.
SOONER OR LATER, THE FACT THAT KIYOTAKA-SAMA TOOK POSSESSION OF THE FILE WILL BECOME WIDELY KNOWN.
PEOPLE WHO WANT THE FILE WILL HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO COME TO HIM.
WE'RE GOING TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THAT AND INCREASE OUR LEVERAGE.
...THEN, WHY ARE YOU HIDING THAT FROM KOUSUKE?
DOESN'T THIS JUST SHOW THAT THAT FELLOW IS AN IDIOT?

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LISTEN, WE'RE DOING THAT...
BECAUSE KOUSUKE-KUN IS THE TYPE WHO ALWAYS PUSHES HIMSELF TOO HARD.
HE IS OF NO USE IF HE DIES.
YOU ARE, SO TO SPEAK, HIS LUCKY CHARM
HE IS A RARE KIND OF ALLY
IF YOU THINK HE CANNOT CARRY THE PRECIOUS FILE JUST ON HIS OWN, WOULD YOU MIND VALUING YOUR OWN LIFE A LITTLE MORE?

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I THINK HE WILL REFRAIN FROM PUSHING HIMSELF TOO HARD.
BUT AT THAT TIME, IF YOU ARE BY HIS SIDE,
...EVEN IF I SAY THAT, I THINK HE WILL EVENTUALLY REALISE THE TRUTH.
.....
...WELL,
.....
I'M SURE YOU WON'T MIND IF I TELL YOU TO GIVE KOUSUKE-KUN TO ME, WILL YOU?

I'M JOKING.
DON'T MIND IT.
...I REALLY...
HATE YOU.
SO, HOW ABOUT WE
BECOME ALLIES?
KIYOTAKA-SAMA BEHAVES LIKE A VILLAIN, BUT...
HE THINKS SERIOUSLY ABOUT EVERYONE!
RYOUKO...

YOU LOOK AS IF YOU HAVE SOMETHING YOU WANT TO ASK ABOUT.
—DID YOU SAVE AMANAE THIS TIME ON A MERE WHIM?
ABOUT THAT MURDERER WHO DRAGGED SAWAMURA INTO THE MESS PREVIOUSLY... YOU CAUSED HER TO COMMIT SUICIDE ON PURPOSE, DIDN'T YOU?
SHE WAS SCARED BY HER CRIME.
SHE WAS TIRED OF RUNNING AWAY,
AND IN THE END, THAT CRIMINAL WOMAN HAD BEEN RELYING ON YOU.
...SHE WAS CONNECTED TO THE BLADE CHILDREN PLAN.

THEN, WHY DIDN'T YOU RESCUE A WOMAN LIKE THAT?
EVEN IF I HAD RESCUED HER, SHE WOULD HAVE COMMITTED SUICIDE ALL THE SAME.
SHE WAS CONVINCED OF THE DANGER THE CHILDREN REPRESENT AND BECAME A HUNTER, BUT...
SHE REGRETTED IT THE MOMENT SHE KILLED ONE
AND THEN SHE RAN AWAY
SHE WASN'T STRONG.
AND AT ANY RATE SHE WAS FULL OF REGRET, BITTER,
EVENTUALLY, SHE WOULD HAVE MET HER DEATH SOMEWHERE.
.....
...AND,
AT THAT PLACE, I FORGAVE HER.
AS FAR AS THAT PERSON IS CONCERNED, SHE WAS HAPPY THAT I LET HER DIE.

I THINK ABOUT IT, BUT,
IF YOU SAY I AM MISTAKEN, JUST SHOW EXACTLY WHY.
I WOULD LIKE TO SEE YOU TRY.
WHAT DOES SAWAMURA THINK OF THE MATTER?
WHAT'S RIGHT, AND WHAT'S WRONG,
I CANNOT TELL.
BUT AFTER BEING PROTECTED BY KIYOTAKA,
AFTER BEING PROTECTED BY KOUSUKE,
I HAVE NO RIGHT TO SAY ANYTHING...
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BUT IT'S NOT AS IF I INTEND TO HELP KIYO-TAKA.
IT'S TO STOP KOUSUKE FROM BEING SUCH A FOOL.
I'LL BECOME YOUR ALLY.
...VERY WELL.
SO YOUR PLAN IS TO BE THE PRINCESS WHO GOES TO SAVE THE PRINCE WHO IS HELD CAPTIVE?
WHATEVER YOU SAY.

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!?
HELLO,
NICE TO MEET YOU!
RATHER, I HAVE THE FEELING THAT THE PRINCE RAN AWAY FROM ME AND I AM GOING TO CHASE AFTER HIM IN A HURRY..
WELL, SINCE YOU SAY YOU ARE GOING TO BECOME OUR ALLY.
LET'S GET TO TRAINING WITHOUT FURTHER ADO
SINCE I HAVE ALREADY SUMMONED THIS PERSON
THIS PERSON?
I AM HILBERT KANON.
PLEASE TAKE CARE OF ME.

I AM RYOUKO TAKAMACHI.
I WANT TO MAKE OUR ACQUAINTANCE SHORT, OKAY?
NO OBJECTIONS.
ALLIES WHOM WE CAN TRUST ARE VALUABLE, AFTER ALL.
I AM SORRY, CHARLOTTE,
I CAN'T DO AS YOU SAY
STILL...

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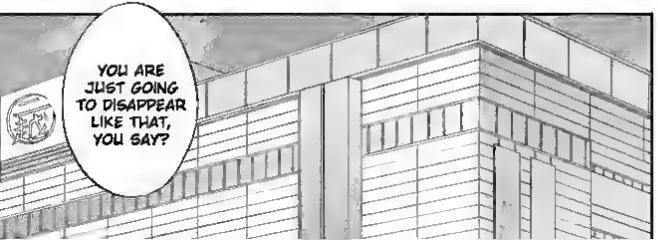
I'LL GO AS FAR AS I CAN.



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HOW IRRESPONSIBLE.
I HAVE DECIDED TO VANISH FROM PUBLIC LIFE FOR TWO TO THREE YEARS IN THIS AREA.
IF YOUR PLACE OF ABODE IS KNOWN, YOUR FREEDOM OF ACTION WILL BE SIGNIFICANTLY LIMITED
SUCH A LONG DISAPPEARANCE...
HOW ARE YOU GOING TO EXPLAIN IT TO YOUR WIFE?
I WON'T DO ANYTHING.
SO IT WILL BE A SUDDEN DISAPPEARANCE.
HEY,
I HAVE ALREADY PATCHED THINGS UP.
AND THAT'S BECAUSE MY DISAPPEARANCE IS INEVITABLE.
...YOU ARE UP TO SOME WICKED PLAN AGAIN, AREN'T YOU?
HEY, KIRIE-CHAN.
WHAT DO YOU INTEND TO DO NEXT...

WHERE DOES KIYOTAKA NARUMI PLAN ON GOING?

THE SONG PUT BY KIYOTAKA NARUMI IN AMANAE'S MUSIC BOX, "WHERE IS MY GREEN DOOR?",
THE NAME OF THAT SONG CAME FROM AN OLD SHORT STORY.

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THAT DOOR LED INTO A MAGICAL REALM DETACHED FROM THIS WORLD.
WHO LIVED IN SEARCH OF A MYSTERIOUS GREEN DOOR HE HAD ONCE CROSSED WHEN HE WAS A CHILD.
THERE WAS MAN OF STATUS AND DISTINCTION, ENVIED BY EVERYONE,
THE CONSTRUCTION SITE WAS SURROUNDED BY A FENCE FITTED WITH A CONVENIENT ACCESS DOOR.
IN THE END, THE MAN
WAS FOUND DEAD IN THE BOTTOM OF A HOLE AT A CONSTRUCTION SITE
THE MAN, DESPITE BEING BLESSED WITH EVERYTHING REALITY HAD TO OFFER, COULDN'T FORGET THAT PLACE
HE COULDN'T STOP SEEKING THE GREEN DOOR.
THE MAN, FOR SOME REASON, HAD OPENED THE DOOR AND ENTERED THE AREA, ONLY TO FALL INADVERTENTLY INTO A HOLE.
WHAT DID HE THINK HE WOULD FIND AT THE OTHER SIDE OF THAT DOOR, JUST BECAUSE IT WAS GREEN?
THEN, WHY DID THE MAN GO THROUGH THAT DOOR?

THAT PERSON PROBABLY COULDN'T HELP
WANTING TO ESCAPE THROUGH THE OTHER SIDE OF THE GREEN DOOR, EVEN IN EXCHANGE FOR HIS OWN DEATH...
WHY DID KIYOTAKA NARUMI PUT A SONG ASSOCIATED WITH THAT STORY THERE?
IN FACT,
BEING SAVED IS WHAT HE WANTS THE MOST...

(Book Title: The Time Machine, by H. G. Wells)
PEOPLE'S HAPPINESS ISN'T SOMETHING THAT CAN BE EXPRESSED BY SIMPLE WORDS.
IN THE END,
タイム・マシン

Jmanga panda

I'M IMPATIENT TO DO THE HIGH SCHOOL EXAMINATION IN JAPAN.
I HEARD THAT A COLD RECEPTION IS THE NORM AT THE TIME OF ADMISSION...
I CAME HERE FOR REFERENCE BOOKS TODAY
WAIT, I CAN'T DO THAT.
OH, WELL.
I WONDER HOW THINGS ARE GOING TO PL Y OUT...

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...SERIOUSLY, I CLEAN THIS PLACE ON A REGULAR BASIS AND YET...
AYUMU?
AAH, BIG BROTHER.
I AM PURSUING THE ENIGMA OF THE BLADE CHILDREN.
PLEASE LET MADOKA KNOW, TOO.

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"AYUMU", YOU SAID ..
SO THAT'S YOUR LITTLE BROTHER?
YES.
WITH THIS, I'M DIVING OUT OF SIGHT INTO THE UNDER-WORLD.
AND RAISING THE CURTAIN FOR HIS STAGE.

BLADE CHILDREN?
WHAT'S THAT ABOUT?
IS THIS ANOTHER OF HIS STUPID JOKES?
BIG BRO IS CAPABLE OF ANYTHING
SHIT. SHOULD I CONTACT MADOKA-SAN JUST IN CASE?
RIGHT NOW, SHE MUST BE IN THE POLICE STATION.
I HAVE A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS

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WHAT NONSENSE
ARE YOU DRAGGING ME INTO NOW?
HEY!
WHERE IS KIYOTAKA NARUMI-DONO?
HE HASN'T SHOWN UP TO BOTHER ME SINCE MORNING.
...IS SOMETHING UP?

WITHOUT OUR REALISING IT, THE SUSPECT OF THE MUSIC BOX SERIAL MURDER CASE HAS DIED.
DEFINITELY, THIS WAS DECIDED BY SOMEONE.
AH, WAIT A SEC.
THE PHONE IS...
プルルル
プルルル

THE STORY
HAS ALREADY BEGUN.
AND YET...
THE PROTAGONIST OF THE "REAL STORY" STILL DOESN'T KNOW HIS PLACE IN IT.
PIPIPI
PIPIPI
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